

## Jordan mobilizes extensive efforts to put peace talks on course

By Ahmed Shaker  
Special to The Star

OVER THE last few weeks, Jordan was the center of intensified diplomatic efforts giving the country an important role in activating the peace process in the Middle East.

Led by his Majesty King Hussein to establish regional peace, Jordanian diplomacy was able to outline the position of other parties in relation to peace making and remove any possible obstacles.

Few hours after the departure of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from Jordan, the King phoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and the PNA leader Yasser Arafat. He briefed them on the results of Mr Netanyahu's visit to Jordan which was the first since he was elected as Israeli prime minister.

A Jordanian-Saudi summit is expected to be held in Riyadh next Monday or Tuesday. The King is to meet King Fahd. The summit is seen as one of the most important Arab bilateral coordination between Jordan

and Saudi Arabia and will focus on latest developments in the peace process.

The Jordanian-Syrian summit held in Damascus earlier this week, created a solid ground for a clear and open relations between the two countries. King Hussein promised all support to reactivate the Syrian-Israeli track.

The King also told the Israeli premier that Syria is willing to resume negotiations for a comprehensive and just peace in the area.

However, "President Assad is still worried because of the delay in implementing the peace accords with Jordan and the Palestinians," King Hussein told Netanyahu during his visit to Amman.

Observers believe that



King shakes hands with Netanyahu

Netanyahu has shown flexibility regarding peace making, particularly on the Syrian-Israeli track. It is based on Netanyahu's statements that Israel is

ready to negotiate with Syria on all outstanding matters.

However, he made no direct statements to assure Syria and the Arabs, that Israel is willing

to pull out from the Golan Heights.

Though King Hussein stressed earlier that Jordan has no personal interests on Palestine, Netanyahu is seeking to loosen the improving Jordanian-Palestinian ties and thus undermining hopes of establishing lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

Commenting on the thorny issue of Jerusalem, Netanyahu said, "I think Jerusalem must not be divided. Anyone who calls for co-existence between Arabs, Palestinians and Israelis and the freedom of the followers of the three monotheistic religions to visit their sacred places and practice their rituals, will never seek to set up a partition in the heart of the city."

"We have our own concepts towards Jerusalem that apparently differ from the PNA's point of view. I don't like to deal with these differences. I prefer to discuss the transitional period upon which we have agreed earlier and according to which there will be no change

Continued on page 2

## Despite voting for government's bread proposal, deputies have second thoughts

By Hamdan Al Hajj  
Special to The Star

AFTER A two-day debate in the Lower House on the issue of the bread price hikes, the government scored a resounding victory. Fifty deputies voted for the government's proposal to increase prices, however, 25 deputies abstained.

But this contradicts parliamentary procedure. The purpose of any session is usually to exchange views and opinions. Deputies must vote on a government decision rather than proposals by deputies.

But Islamists gradually brought the government to agree to their proposal.

This issue led to many differences among deputies. Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and Samir Habashneh, besides other deputies, also tried to prevent such voting. They claimed that the deputies who wouldn't vote on rejecting the bread price hike would be considered pro-government. This will certainly affect their chances of winning in the coming elections. Some deputies warned of the electoral risk in future.

"We fear from our electorates that they will not support us if we vote for the government's proposal," said one deputy.

Mr Abdul Karim Kabariti stressed at the beginning and in the end of these discussions that he is not seeking the approval of the Lower House nor for its legitimacy.

Contrary to their calls for rejecting bread price hikes, some Islamic deputies, in coordination with leftists and centrists, had indirectly ratified the government's policy.

Since the beginning of the debate, Islamic deputies wanted

the house to take a decision regarding their proposal to vote on the bread issue. Another 25 deputies agreed.

But this contradicts parliamentary procedure. The purpose of any session is usually to exchange views and opinions. Deputies must vote on a government decision rather than proposals by deputies.

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Deputies debate bread prices

rates who had chosen us to represent them," some deputies stated.

Despite this warning, only 24 deputies voted against the hike, while 50 deputies approved, but recorded their differences on the mechanism of compensation and rate of the price increase.

Some analysts say that people have come to feel that these 50 deputies do not really represent them, as they endorsed the price rise.

The Islamic deputy Bassam Omoush said "We insisted on the voting of the IAF proposal, because we wanted to let the people know that the deputies who voted for the government decision don't really represent citizens."

"We knew about this result in advance. This makes the IAF even more popular because its members feel the pulse of the people. Poor citizens welcomed the attitude of the Islamic deputies," Dr Bassam Omoush disclosed.

However, Mr Kabariti earlier challenged the house. He warned them that he is ready to obtain such a decree for a confidence vote on his government.

He wanted to show the deputies that he fears nothing. I'm ready to sacrifice my ministerial and parliamentary position for the sake of my country, Mr Kabariti said.

A top-ranking Israeli official who attended Netanyahu's meeting in Amman told report-

ers that King Hussein "delivered a positive message from Assad." The King, however, made no such claims, having said over the weekend that the Syrian leader "did not give me any message to pass on to the Israeli prime minister." During the press conference with Netanyahu, the King said he was "very optimistic and very reassured" that peace negotiations will continue until there is a comprehensive peace.

Later on, Netanyahu said that he would "never, never" relinquish the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967; the return of the Heights is a central Syrian demand. He defended his proposal to refuse Israeli-Syrian talks for now on water-sharing and calling off their long standing proxy war in Lebanon.

When a reporter asked King Hussein to comment on the Israeli government's decision to resume building Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories, he was firm but diplomatic. "I hope and trust," he said, "that the Israeli government will act very prudently and will make sure that it does not create obstacles but instead create incentives and opportunities for progress towards achieving peace in the times ahead."

Speaking afterward to his traveling press corps, the Israeli leader said he had passed "a certain proposal" to President Assad by way of the US government Friday. He did not elaborate, but added: "We are awaiting an answer."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the United States has been passing messages back and forth between Israel and Syria for a couple of weeks. He said Washington is attempting to explore if there is "a basis for reviving the Syria-Israeli talks" that took place at

Continued on page 2

M. Habashneh plane crash sur le pain

Voir page 12

## King assures Arafat of Jordanian support to Palestinian rights

AMMAN (Star)—His Majesty King Hussein met yesterday in Aqaba with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. They held a session of talks which was attended by senior officials from both sides.

The two leaders discussed the Middle East peace process and means of supporting it. They also discussed ways of relaunching the peace negotiations on all tracks.

The King reviewed with Mr Arafat the outcome of his talks with the Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu last Monday. His Majesty reiterated the need for a full commitment to the peace process from all parties and building on what has been already achieved.

He also reaffirmed the Jordanian position in supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle to restore their legitimate



rights on their national soil.

The Palestinian leader informed the King of the difficult economic situation in the self-ruled areas resulting from the six-months Israeli closure.

Arafat hopes King Hussein will help Palestinian-Israeli negotiators to overcome controversial issues such as the

new Jewish settlements and the future of Jerusalem.

Arafat has condemned Netanyahu's lifting of restrictions imposed by the previous government on Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Israel's failure to withdraw troops from Hebron.

## Netanyahu playing politics on the Syrian-Lebanese tracks

By Star Staff Writer  
and Combined Agencies

IN HIS second visit to an Arab capital since winning the Israeli May elections, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought, as he did in Egypt last month, to create an impression of momentum in widening "the circle of peace" around Israel. The effort has not been seconded to date by his putative negotiating partners in Syria or the Palestinian Authority (PNA), both of which have expressed great discontent at Netanyahu's rejection of the land-for-peace formula that underpinned previous Arab-Israeli negotiations and accords.

In an implicit acknowledgment that his "Lebanon First" proposal has failed to tempt Syrian President Hafez Assad back to the peace table, Netanyahu, on Monday, said he is taking a new approach with the Syrians and underlined he is willing to talk about "all outstanding matters"—including the Golan Heights.

King Hussein spent five hours in discussions with President Assad early on Saturday in Damascus, hoping to revive the peace process in the region. But the King returned to Jordan with no substantial progress, saying there were no messages from Assad to Netanyahu nor any discernible shift in Assad's public position regarding peace talks.

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Assad



Netanyahu

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Continued on page 2

## Battle of the squirrel

# Redcoats turn tail to invading Americans

By Fred Barbash  
LA Times-Washington Post

LONDON—American gray squirrels began gnawing at Britain during the 19th century, when the Victorians introduced a few to Britain for the first time, thinking they were cute.

What they did not think about was the reason they were cute: their eating habits. They were always eating, standing on their hind legs or crouching for something to eat, or looking for something to eat, or hiding something to eat later.

The American gray squirrels went forth and multiplied—and ate so much over the next century that little food was left for British reds, the indigenous red squirrel, which, legend has it, ruled the world of squirrels here throughout squirrel history.

At last estimate, there were about 160,000 reds—mostly in Scotland—and 2.5 million grays, mostly everywhere. Once upon a time, experts guess, 1 million reds inhabited the British Isles.

They have been talking about this with dismay here for years, but now they're going to do something about it.

The official government plan is called the UK Strategy for Red Squirrel Conservation. Although called a "biodiversity" plan "for the conservation of one of the (United Kingdom's) most charismatic, and threatened, mammals," by its masterminds, the description of what they have in mind is not suitable for children.

Some gray squirrels will be shot or poisoned. Others will be victimized by a trick food hopper—that takes advantage

of the fact that the gray weighs twice as much as the red. The conservationists will place squirrel food in a little box with a trap door at the bottom. When squirrel-like (British) goes in to enjoy its meal, nothing will happen. When the American squirrel goes in, its weight will send it tumbling to earth through the trap door.

The long-term goal is even grimmer—feeding male grays with nuts laced with an ingredient to make them sterile.

"We have nothing against the American gray squirrel," insisted Tom Tew, senior mammalogist for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the umbrella group responsible for the strategy. "We'd just rather it remain in America."

As a matter of fact, suggested Tew, to whom this is not funny, some of his best friends are American grays. "I was watching one just this morning... we're not talking about wide-scale annihilation, just a balanced enjoyment of grays."

If something isn't done, he said, the grays will extinguish the reds. Indeed, he noted, the gray is on the march in Northern England.

Last year area residents said the gray squirrels "were 10 miles down the road. This year they say, 'They're with us now.' We either do nothing and watch the red disappear, or we control the grays."

Tew prefers to think of this squirrel playing field. The reds are smaller and more timid and have difficulty competing for the bigger nuts of the increasingly dominant deciduous trees. They have a somewhat easier time among cone-bearing evergreens.

The grays are "more efficient at harvesting and eating food," Tew said. "The American grays are equipped to win the battle. We want to tip the balance in favor of the native red."

Fortunately for the grays, there is a lobby group on their side, the League Against Cruel Sports. Spokesman John Bryant issued a statement

essentially accusing the red squirrel of being an impostor—not native at all, but an import from the European Continent after an earlier generation of reds was wiped out by disease and habitat change.

He called the plan to save them a waste of money that could cause a "conservation disaster when other animals—such as weasels, polecats and badgers—ingest the poison meant for the squirrels or perhaps the poisoned squirrels themselves."

The best hope for the American gray will probably be bureaucracy. A steering group has been formed that is to appoint a coordinator, who, in addition to coordinating, will help collate reports. This will be followed by country squirrel groups, which will "probably interact with the wider Country Biodiversity Groups which will be set up to act as foci for implementing biodiversity programs..." and so on.

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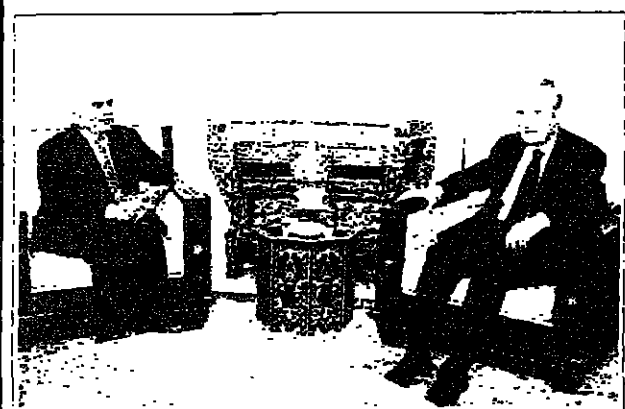
World Report

# JORDAN

## WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

### King visits Syria



His Majesty King Hussein met with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Saturday. The King paid a one-day visit to the Syrian capital, Damascus. It was the King's first visit to Syria since 1994.

King Hussein described the visit as "an opportunity for reconciliation and openness on many issues, in fact all issues" between the two countries. The King said "we discussed all issues but I can not talk now and I don't think I have the right to speak about this issue. This was in response to what is now termed as Israel's Lebanon First option which Damascus has strongly refused."

has only just been caught in the act by officials in the Ministry of Social Development.

The man is said to own 116 dunums of land with an estimated value of JD 1 million. He is also said to have JD 100,000 in the bank. The subsistence monthly allowance is only JD 32, and is meant to be for the really needy people.

The Minister of Social Development, Mr. Hammud Abu Jamous, said that what is baffling about this case is how the man could obtain the necessary documents to become eligible for such an allowance.

It appears that heads might start rolling over this case. The minister said a special committee is being formed to look into the whole workings of the fund to make sure that subsistence only goes to people who really deserve it.

But it is clear in this case, as it is readily acknowledged, that people have been helping this man get away with squandering public funds. We really shall never know who is the real culprit.

nessmen in downtown Amman are being accused of forging and mishandling Ministry of Supply's coupons. These coupons are presented to merchants in exchange of different commodities. These merchants are carefully changing the stamp of these commodities from, say rice to that of sugar in anticipation of the price increase. The purpose is always to increase their profits. The public prosecutor is looking for further evidence and these people are expected to be taken to court.

#### Public transport may follow next

People seem to have got used to price increases.

The prices of public transport (buses and service cars) could increase from 15 percent to 25 percent, according to the Transport Minister, Mr. Nasser Al Lawzi. Speaking to *Al Bilad*, he said these increases are still being studied.



Lawzi

#### Women in business!

A Worldnet dialogue via satellite on "Women and Business" will be held on Monday, 12 August between 4:30 pm till 5:30 pm at the American Embassy in Amman. Questions on women in business issues will be put to Judith Burnett, senior advisor to the undersecretary of International Trade Administration at the US Department of Commerce. This time, participants from Amman, Cairo and Muscat will put the questions. From Amman, they include Ms Fatima Asfour, director of the Jordan Matches Factory and Ms Lama Abbasi, director of the Zara Dead Sea Products.

#### Supply coupons under scrutiny

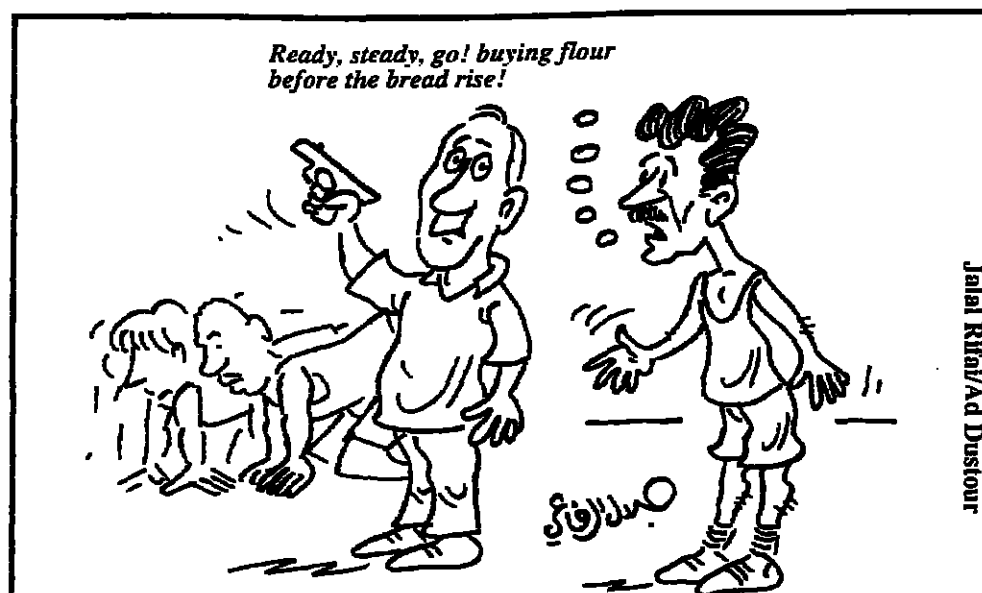
Supply coupons forgeries are under scrutiny from none other than the Amman Public Prosecutor, Mr. Jamal Al Zo'ubi. According to *Al Rai*, 17 bus-

#### Women demonstrate against bread hikes

About 200 women protested outside Parliament against the government plans to lift the subsidy on bread prices last Sunday. They held banners "defending the loaf..."

The Speaker of the Lower House Sa'd Hayel Al Srou received a memo from the protesters which he promised to study carefully. The memo said an increase in price should be linked to the level of wages. If not looked into very carefully, the bread policy would have disastrous social consequences, the women warned.

The protest was also attended by the head of the National Committee for the Defence of



Jalal Rifai/Ad Dussour

### Prince stresses role of industry

HRH Crown Prince Hassan chairs a meeting on industrial policy and its role in stimulating investments in the Kingdom. The meeting was held at the Higher Council for Science and Technology last Saturday.

The Prince said it is vital to link industry to vocational training programs. He was speaking within the context of preparations for a fourth Jordanian Scientific week that is to start on 27 July.

Several ministers attended the seminar that aims at revitalizing Jordanian industry.



Bread, Mr. Mihim Al Tai and heads of political parties.

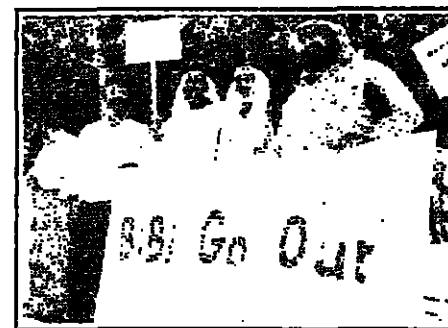
#### Index may be more stable than we thought

The cost of living index may not be as high as it is commonly thought. Figures by the Public Statistics Dept. show that the highest average for the cost of living in January was JD 116.2, in February it was JD 118, March JD 118.1, April JD 117.2 and May JD 115.3.

In reaching those figures, the Department drew up a list of basic necessary items which are being calculated for the cost of living. These included food, clothes, footwear, housing expenditure and others.

### Protest against Israeli PM's visit

A demonstration outside the Prime Ministry was staged on the same day Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the country. The demonstrators were from the opposition political parties. Under the banner of "Bibi Go Out" from members of the Islamic Action Front, the demonstrators were protesting against the visit of Netanyahu, Israeli human rights abuses against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and against Israeli actions against southern Lebanon.



### Despite voting for government

Continued from page 1

Kabariti declared. The Lower House has formed a committee to discuss and study proposals presented by the deputies and held a long session three days ago. The committee issued, through the Lower House, a special statement on these proposals and results of discussions with the government. But latest reports indicated that the committee is now at loggerheads with the government as they are proposing an increase of only 150 fils instead of the 250 that is proposed by the government.

Members of the Committee are: Abdel Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Samir Habashneh, Ali Al Shadi, Abdullah Akhu Irshideh, Nadir Abu Al Sha'ar, Nadir Al Duheirat, Mansour Bin Tarif and Salem Al Zawaydeh.

The meeting of the committee last Tuesday was headed by the speaker of the Lower House, Sa'd Hayel Srou, and all deputies met Kabariti at the Prime Ministry; they dealt with new points, suggestions and offered solutions and alternatives.

Among the deputies who had opposed the decision to increase bread and fodder prices are: Mohammed Owaidah, Nazeh Amarin, Hammud Sa'id, Dheifallah Al-Moumani, Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani, Khalil Haddadin, Bader Al Riyati, Abdul Majed Al Aktash, Theib Anees, Abdul Mune'im Abu Zanat, Hamzeh Mansour, Bassam Al Omoush, Abdul Raheem Al Okour, Talal Obaidat, Tojan Faisal, Mohammed Al Haj, Saleh Shu'watah, Ahmed Al-Kofahi, Sulaiman Al Sa'ad, Abdul Aziz Jabr, Bassam Haddadin, Theib Abdullah, Abdullah Al Kaileh, and Abdullah Akhu Ershideh. The deputy Trad Al Qadhi left before the vote, although he had earlier signed a memorandum rejecting the price hikes.

Mr. Kabariti has assured that his government is making sure that proper mechanisms of subsidy are provided for those who deserve it. A new system had been already prepared and is awaiting a Royal Decree.

The other side of the issue, is that prices of some supply materials have already increased, starting from yoghurt, fresh milk, eggs, and chicken in addition to other basic commodities consumed by the citizens.

In addition, bakeries and flour selling supermarkets are witnessing active movement as people are buying extra quantities for fear of any expected hikes. However, there are still many surprises that we have to wait for within the few coming days.

**THE STAR**  
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Save water, every drop counts!

**INTER-CONTINENTAL**

**MUSICAL**

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Relax for the evening & enjoy the live music of our Duo Pamela & Anthony or indulge yourself in our sumptuous B.B.Q. Dinner.

## Netanyahu playing politics on the Syrian-Lebanese tracks

Continued from page 1

the Wye Plantation in Maryland earlier this year.

"We have not yet been successful in convincing" both sides that they should agree to a resumption in the negotiations. Burns said. "We hope we will be successful in the future."

At the press conference, Netanyahu went out of his way to underscore his willingness to talk—and not just about Lebanon. "We are prepared to engage in peace negotiations with Syria on all outstanding matters," he said. "We are not limiting this to any particular subject. We have in fact a variety of issues to discuss with Syria."

He said that on some issues "we disagree and on some I think the areas of agreement are closer at hand." But, "our purpose is to achieve a formal peace with Syria."

In Amman, the Israeli prime minister made it clear that Lebanon is uppermost in Israel's mind now. Israel is eager to obtain guarantees of border security so it can safely withdraw 1,000 troops from its self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Israel does not want territory in Lebanon, Netanyahu said, adding, "All we seek to achieve along our Lebanese front is tranquility and security. If this is agreed upon by others, I think it could be a

very good starting point to build a relationship of trust."

The editor of *Tishbir*, Syria's leading state-run newspaper denounced what he called "maneuvers and deception" by the Israeli Premier. The actions were seen here as possible responses to several days of public overtures toward Syria by Netanyahu. Speaking to Israeli television, he said that he still hopes to renew talks broken off with Syria last February, and said if the talks resume, "I intend to demand a stop to this bloodletting."

Last Tuesday's mortar attack, near the outpost of Brashit and five miles inside Lebanon, wounded two Israelis

and killed a medic, Staff Sgt. Tehauhu Aslan, 20, who tried to dress their wounds, according to an Israeli army account.

It was the second Hezbollah attack in two days, and the 10th Israeli fatality since Israel mounted an aggression in April on southern Lebanon. Tuesday night, Hezbollah guerrillas killed an Israeli soldier in southern Lebanon.

Syrian diplomats are said to be telling US intermediaries they will not resume peace talks with Israel until Netanyahu accepts Labor's formula that Israel's withdrawal on the Golan will be commensurate with the extent of the peace Syria offers.

President Assad has rejected

the idea of "Lebanon First," the proposal to achieve some agreement on peace on the Syrian-Israeli track, saying instead that the Syrian-Israeli talks should strive for a comprehensive settlement that includes Syria's main goal of obtaining the return of the Golan Heights.

Diplomats say that before Assad will resume talks, he wants Netanyahu to acknowledge that he is willing to trade land for peace and to ease stalled negotiations where they broke off in February under the previous government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The two sides then had appeared close to agreeing on details of security guarantees for Israel, if it hands back the Golan. But Israel recalled its negotiators after a series of suicide bombings, accusing Syria of failing to condemn these actions.

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## Jordan mobilizes extensive efforts to put peace talks on course

Continued from page 1

on Jerusalem as a unified city. Washington's declaration had pointed out to the special role of Jordan in preserving the Islamic holy places." Netanyahu maintained.

Observers interpret Netanyahu's statement which emphasized Jordan's role on Jerusalem as a way to undermine Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

However, King Hussein stated that Palestinians are carrying out direct contacts with the Israeli government to solve their problems. "They are responsible for any decision they take and we fully support them to restore their lands according to a comprehensive and just peace."

The King added that "We do not bypass the Palestinians, neither do we act on their behalf." This relation has been dampened over the last few years because some Palestinians have come to believe that Jordan might have interests to rearrange the situation in the West Bank and Jerusalem to what it was before 1967.

Another case which might be hinted at during the closed-door

negotiations between King Hussein and Netanyahu deals with the refugee issue. This could be solved through what is termed as the "Jordanian option," but is something that is strongly rejected by Jordan and the PNA.

Information available from the closed meetings indicate that Netanyahu might have suggested a solution to the sticking issue of refugees. Some of them, he suggested, should resettle in Jordan while others would be offered the right to return, but only to Gaza.

Even on the final status negotiations on the West Bank, there is indication that Netanyahu favors a Jordanian role, and opposing an independent Palestinian state.

Netanyahu believes that the best solution is self-rule, one that is linked to Jordan. In this respect, the land will continue to be ruled by Israel while Palestinians follow the Jordanian government. But this is just one option. Netanyahu does not object to establishing a Palestinian state in Gaza.

Despite this, Jordan is still convinced that such stands by Netanyahu are not final, and are

subject to adjustment and change.

Many Jordanian officials still believe that Netanyahu is still recovering from his pre-election mandate and is paying for the election campaign.

Netanyahu must be given another opportunity to deal with matters in a realistic way that is not influenced by elections and dubious coalition partners, an official said.

They continued that the existing Israeli government is expected to change, a step that may help it to take decisive and bold decisions. Officials added that Netanyahu's government is not likely to last for a long time. "A new coalition government between Likud and the Labor party may be announced soon."

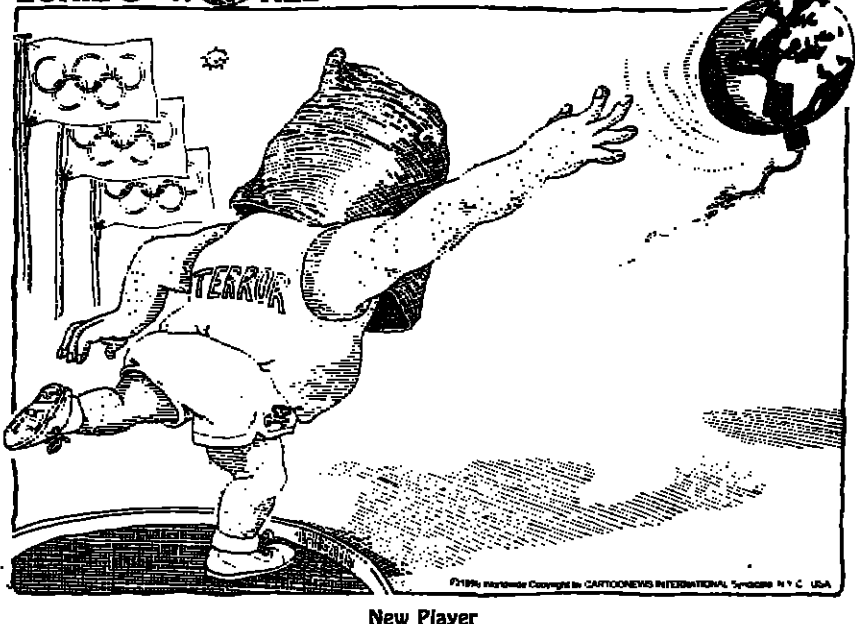
However, these developments in the Israeli cabinet might be followed by other changes in the Israeli Labor party, which is to elect its new leader next November. Yehud Barak is expected to be in the driver's seat, it is predicted. According to one official, if Barak is elected, the possibility of a coalition between the two parties may be stronger.







LURIE'S WORLD



## Our Say...

### Jordanian efforts for peace

His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Syria to meet with President Hafez Assad this week and his meeting in Amman with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu comes as part of Jordan's concerted efforts to revive the stalled Middle East peace process.

The King's visit to Syria signals an end to a period of chill in relations between the two sisterly countries. The summit has reinstated priorities and set a bilateral agenda that we hope will be followed and executed by the concerned governments. Syria's role in and contribution to the peace process are invaluable and its relations with its neighbors must reflect the sense of coordination and steadfastness that became the semblance of the Arab summit meeting in Cairo in June.

The King's visit to Syria comes as US and European diplomatic efforts intensify to resume peace negotiations between Syria and Israel, seen as crucial to the conclusion of a comprehensive peace agreement in the region.

Jordan's position from issues relating to Syria have never been clearer. Jordan supports Syria's efforts to regain its occupied territories under the land-for-peace formula and international resolutions. Jordan supports the Syrian position in negotiations as much as it supports the Lebanese and the Palestinians in their negotiations with Israel.

The King's meeting with President Assad preceded his encounter with Mr Netanyahu in Amman. Jordan is expected to play an important role in bringing the Arab position to the Israeli leaders who for now have done little to show their commitment to the course of peace.

The King's meeting with Mr Netanyahu also reflects Jordan's readiness to stand by its commitments and responsibilities. While Jordan differs with much of what the government of Mr Netanyahu calls for in relation to the peace process, it cannot shy away from its obligations to peace.

The King has not wasted time in explaining to Mr Netanyahu the need to salvage the peace process. He was clear on where Jordan stands in relations to such dangerous issues as settlements, refugees, Jerusalem and Israel's commitment to honoring its agreements with the Palestinians.

It is hoped that the Israeli leader will heed Jordan's advice and will understand that he cannot expect to keep the benefits of peace without giving up the spoils of war. Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands and its respect of the rights of the Palestinians are two indivisible components of a lasting peace in the region.

We hope too that the United States and Europe, whose influence cannot be underestimated at this stage, will realize that as the peace process stalls the risks to the region grow larger.

Jordan's diplomatic efforts appear to be gaining momentum and the King's expected visit to Saudi Arabia soon, and his meeting with King Fahd, should bring value to the current drive to put the peace train on tracks again. ■



● Sgt. Ahmed Biddo (left), Lt. Omar Qaddoumi and Cpt. Abdel Hakim Hijo, sit in a Jericho military court, Saturday. They were charged of torturing to death Mahmood Jumayal in a Nablus prison. The convicted officers were sentenced to 15 years hard labor.

## The Star

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## A critique to Miller's latest book Edward Said offers enlightening review of Muslim world

God Has Ninety-Nine Names: Reporting From a Militant Middle East, by Judith Miller & Schuster, 1996, pp574 \$30.

Reviewed by  
Edward W. Said

JUDITH MILLER is a New York Times reporter much in evidence on talk shows and seminars on the Middle East. She trades in "the Islamic threat"—her particular mission has been to advance the millennial thesis that militant Islam is a danger to the West. The search for a post-Soviet foreign devil has come to rest, as it did beginning in the eighth century for European Christendom, on Islam, a religion whose physical proximity and unstilled challenge to the West seem as diabolical and violent now as they did then.

Never mind that most Islamic countries today are too poverty-stricken, tyrannical and hopelessly inept militarily as well as scientifically to be much of a threat to anyone except their own citizens. What matters to "experts" like Miller, Samuel Huntington, Martin Kramer, Bernard Lewis, Daniel Pipes, Steven Emerson and Barry Rubin, plus a whole battery of Israeli academics, is to make sure that the "threat" is kept before our eyes.

Miller's book is symptomatic because it is a weapon to subordinate, beat down, compel and defeat any Arab or Muslim resistance to US-Israeli dominance. Moreover, by surreptitiously justifying a policy of single-minded obduracy that links Islamism to a strategically important, oil-rich part of the world, the anti-Islam campaign virtually eliminates the possibility of equal dialogue between Islam and the Arabs, and the West or Israel.

To demonize and dehumanize a whole culture on the ground that it is (in Lewis's sneering phrase) enraged at modernity is to turn Muslims into the objects of a therapeutic, punitive attention. I do not want to be misunderstood here: The manipulation of Islam, or for that matter Christianity or Judaism, for retrograde political purposes is catastrophically bad and must be opposed, not just in Saudi Arabia, the West Bank and Gaza, Pakistan, Sudan, Algeria and Tunisia but also in Israel, among the right-wing Christians in Lebanon (for whom Miller shows an unseemly sympathy).

And I do not at all believe that all the ills of Muslim countries are due to Zionism and imperialism. But this is very far from saying that Israel and the United States, and their intellectual flacks, have not played a combative, even incendiary role in stigmatizing and heaping invidious abuse on an abstraction called "Islam," deliberately to stir up feelings of anger and fear about Islam among Americans and Europeans, who are also enjoined to see in Israel a secular, liberal alternative.

She tells us that she has been

involved with the Middle East for 25 years, yet she has little knowledge of either Arabic or Persian. It would be impossible to be taken seriously as a reporter or expert on Russia, France, Germany or Latin America, perhaps even China or Japan, without knowing the requisite languages, but for "Islam," linguistic knowledge is unnecessary since what one is dealing with is considered to be a psychological deformation, not a "real" culture or religion.

What of her political and historical information? Each of the 10 country chapters (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan) begins with an anecdote and moves immediately to a potted history that reflects not much more than the work of a name-dropping college sophomore. Cobbled up out of various, not always reliable authorities (the pages of footnotes are tainted by her ignorance, whether because she can only cite the sources she already knows she wants in English, or because she quotes only authorities whose views correspond to hers, thereby closing out an entire library by Muslims, Arabs and non-Orientalist scholars). These histories are meant principally to display her command of the material, but actually expose her lamentable prejudices and failures of comprehension. In the Saudi Arabia chapter, for instance, she informs us in a note that her "favorite" source on the Prophet Mohammed is the French Orientalist Maxime Rodinson.

the abominable diction and jaw-shattering jargon of the writing. What you have is not an idea at all but a series of clichés mixed with unverifiable assertions that reflect the "thought" of "Syrians" much less than they do Miller's.

Miller gilds her paper-thin descriptions with the phrase "my friend," which she uses to convince her reader that she really knows the people and consequently what she is talking about. I counted 247 uses of the phrase before I stopped about halfway through the book. This technique produces extraordinary distortions in the form of long digressions that testify to an Islamic mindset, even as they obscure or ignore more or at least equally relevant material like local politics, the functioning of secular institutions and the active intellectual contest taking place between Islamists and nationalist opponents.

She seems never to have heard of Arkoun, or Jabiri, or Tarabishi, or Adonis, or Hanafi or Djeit, whose theses are hotly debated all over the Islamic world.



Edward Said

her breathlessly excitable way Miller sprinkles around a few of these facts, nowhere does she accord them the weight and influence as causes of Islamist passion.

Maddeningly, she informs us of everyone's religion—such as so is Christian, or Muslim Sunni, Muslim Shiite, etc. Even so, she is not always accurate, managing to produce some howlers. She speaks of Hisham Sharabi as a friend but misidentifies him as a Christian; he is Sunni Muslim. Badr el Haj is described as Muslim whereas he is Maronite Christian. These lapses wouldn't be so bad were she not bent on revealing her intimacy with so many people.

And then there is her bad faith in not identifying her own religious background or political predilections. Given her willingness to undercut even her friendly sources, the most interesting question about Miller's book is why she wrote it at all. Certainly not out of affection. Consider, for instance, that she admits she fears and dislikes Lebanon, hates Syria, laughs at Libya, dismisses Sudan, feels sorry for and a little alarmed by Egypt and is repulsed by Saudi Arabia. She is relentlessly concerned only with the dangers of organized Islamic militancy, which I would hazard a guess accounts for less than five percent of the billion-strong Islamic world. She supports the violent suppression of Islamists (but not torture and other "illegal means" used in that suppression. In one especially nauseating scene, she actually participates in the prison interrogation of an alleged Muslim terrorist by Israeli policemen, whose systematic use of torture and other questionable procedures (undercover assassinations, middle-of-the-night arrests, house demolitions) she politely overlooks as she gets to ask the handcuffed man a few questions of her own.

Perhaps Miller's most consistent failing as a journalist is that she only makes connections and offers analyses of anon. hates Syria, laughs at Libya, dismisses Sudan, feels sorry for and a little alarmed by Egypt and is repulsed by Saudi Arabia. She is relentlessly concerned only with the dangers of organized Islamic militancy, which I would hazard a guess accounts for less than five percent of the billion-strong Islamic world. She supports the violent suppression of Islamists (but not torture and other "illegal means" used in that suppression. In one especially nauseating scene, she actually participates in the prison interrogation of an alleged Muslim terrorist by Israeli policemen, whose systematic use of torture and other questionable procedures (undercover assassinations, middle-of-the-night arrests, house demolitions) she politely overlooks as she gets to ask the handcuffed man a few questions of her own.

Continued on page 6

## Heart and soul worth more than the gold

By Carrie Nelle Moye  
US Star Correspondent

SINCE THE days of school integration in the early 1960s, Atlanta has been known as "The city too busy to hate." This has been a wonderful slogan that has tended to remain true to its origins, the days of then mayor, Ivan Allen, Jr., the last white person to occupy that position.

While the rest of the South was seething, Mr Allen drove through the predominantly "black areas" of Atlanta, intermittently stopping, climbing on the hood of his car, and yelling through a megaphone that the blacks and whites of Atlanta would work together in all areas to make this one of the great cities of the world.

As time has progressed, Atlanta indeed has become just that, culminating in hosting the 1996 Summer (Centennial) Olympiad, perhaps with more hoopla than has ever existed in a host city. With all the anticipation has come much criticism, some justified, some not. And of course having the pipe bomb bloody Centennial Park is one of the worst things that could have happened.

Other criticisms have ranged from the opening show being far too gaudy (whereas some think it was the most beautiful event in modern Olympic history)

to the purveyors of news making it appear that the United States teams are the only teams participating, i.e. national pride has been too self-adulating. And then there are the rampant stories of price gouging—the almighty dollar superseding the importance of the games.

All the above are the stuff of which headlines are made. But little coverage has been given to the behind-the-scenes "little people" of the city and suburbs who have given and given and given of themselves.

For nothing except the fulfillment of knowing they have dedicated long hours, seemingly beyond-the-limits energy, and emergency brain-storming when something planned appeared to be falling apart.

Listen to the story of Judy. Four years ago when it was announced that Atlanta had won the coveted position as the summer host for 1996, Judy, in her mid-thirties, was a vice president of a very Atlanta-oriented enterprise. She was promised several weeks off, with pay, to volunteer for the Olympics. At some point later, she made an upward career move that was too inviting to refuse. But her present company is not so community-involved as her former, so she was told she would have to take time at her own expense.

Judy used most nights and most weekends for two years to work as a volunteer. She then used her two weeks of vacation to participate in the Atlanta Olympic games. She took a third week without pay into the Olympic weeks per se to serve in whatever capacity needed. This ranged from being a supervisor, more often a gopher. But she also did something else that many Atlantans did, sans credit. She opened her home, free of charge, to families and individuals who were attending the events and could not find places to stay.

Her three beds and three sofas have been full for the entirety of the games. She has had two volunteers from Alabama, a volunteer from Ohio, a couple from Germany, a woman from Finland, a man known only as "the very tall man" from Norway. One family in a motor home could find no parks empty so they "hooked up" in Judy's driveway and have remained for the entirety. Some have stayed only a night or two until they could find paid lodging (many of which had been pre-booked but oversold).

Anticipating this probable situation, Judy had gone above and beyond by assigning each "guest" a color. She had purchased color-coordinated linens for bed-and-bath. There were color coordinated trays for each refrigerator (she urged each guest to provide her or his own special goodies, place it on the correctly colored tray, and asked that others not to take from another's cache). She supplied colored mesh bags so guests could wash clothing together and not worry about having to separate afterwards. Each person was to take her or his towel and cloth to the pertinent sleeping area, where she provided hooks on which they could be hung separately. She supplied cooking essentials as the nearest grocer is a mile away and most had no independent transportation. Again, no charge.

Yes, there have been some complaints about some glitches at the Modern Centennial Olympics. But there have been many more "Judy's" who have shown the true Olympic Spirit and who will never be recognized. These people represent the quintessential American with whom one would want to share the fox-hole should there be a war. But what Judy and her compatriots have done is not flashy and sensational; they have been US citizens in the background who are proud to play host to the creme de la creme of the world's athletes. Their gold medals are in, not on, their chests.

And then there are persons who fled the city as though aliens were coming. ■

## Middle East Beat by Khairi Jambet

### Dual containment

HARDLY ANYONE, listening to the news of the international media, missed the alarming developments in the Gulf. All of a sudden, American, British, and French troops stationed there were put on high alert, to foil an expected terrorist attack on them.

It was, of course, during the recent days of terror mania when every single accident or mishap could be blamed conveniently on an act of terrorism. Undoubtedly, the explosions directed at the American troops in Saudi Arabia are real and not a figment of one's imagination, and so is the case of the Atlanta explosion which claimed the lives of the innocent and injured many more.

The tragic explosion of the TWA flight to Paris is still, and will remain for some time a mystery. Nevertheless, we have started hearing from US officials that a foreign country is behind the explosion, and that it was a terrorist attack rather than an accident.

The Clinton administration declared its intent to punish the country involved if the case is proved so. One cannot help thinking that there is a wish among American officials, that it might turn out to be Iran.

The quick American threat of retaliation left, however, a question that needs to be answered. What is the Clinton administration going to do against the terrorism which is sprouting on the home front? Unfortunately, in an election year, retaliating against an imaginary terrorist supporting country, may be a vote winner. But a response related to indigenous acts of terror will definitely become a vote loser.

What is most disturbing in this scenario, is not the terrorism issue, although an important one, but the revival of the old US policy of containment. Of course, in this case, Iran and Iraq are the countries that are supposed to be contained.

As one side of the American idea of counter-terrorism is directed against Iran, the other side is pointing towards Iraq; the US have also warned Kuwait regarding possible belligerent action by Iraq. The two countries fit nicely into the scenario of evil states, and dual containment can be justified without many objections from the Europeans, as well as aspiring traders.

Although an enlightened US foreign policy for the Middle East could have gone a long way in successfully replacing the need for hegemony, yet it seems that the question of oil remains predominant in American perception. The price of dual containment is exceedingly on the rise. In addition to the bill of up-keeping, the oil price will continue to fall on the world markets, with OPEC becoming an instrument of price reduction rather than a cartel that determines price levels favorable to oil states.

Iran and Iraq, under the supposed criteria of rogue states, will have to be contained militarily and economically until the oil price becomes almost free. There is always the fear, that in the future, it will not be oil that needs to be defended but a more important natural resource: water. Are we then likely to see in the near future, dual containment on water?

One certainly hopes that the day will never arise, and countries that are interdependent, both regionally, and internationally on water sharing, will be able to sort out their problems through negotiations. If there seems to be a tacit acceptance of the US policy of dual containment, it would be due to the fact that there is a general resignation in the region to the overwhelming problems of economic survival. Therefore the cruel manifestation of resistance has been the wanton acts of terror, at least those unrelated to the indigenous. American home grown terrorism. The vicious cycle must be broken, and the spirit of enlightenment and moderation must prevail. ■

Business scene

Foreign Exchange

	US\$	UK£	FRF	DM	JPY	HKD	S\$	A\$	INR	THB	MYR	SGD	PHP	IDR	USD
US\$	1.00														
UK£	0.65	1.00													
FRF	6.55	10.36	1.00												
DM	1.93	3.36	0.63	1.00											
JPY	106.48	163.64	163.64	163.64	1.00										
HKD	7.76	11.92	11.92	11.92	7.76	1.00									
S\$	1.36	2.09	2.09	2.09	1.36	1.36	1.00								
A\$	0.67	1.03	1.03	1.03	0.67	0.67	0.67	1.00							
INR	47.83	73.47	73.47	73.47	47.83	47.83	47.83	47.83	1.00						
THB	20.34	31.14	31.14	31.14	20.34	20.34	20.34	20.34	20.34	1.00					
MYR	2.34	3.61	3.61	3.61	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	1.00				
SGD	1.36	2.09	2.09	2.09	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.00			
PHP	48.35	74.12	74.12	74.12	48.35	48.35	48.35	48.35	48.35	48.35	48.35	48.35	1.00		
IDR	1336.28	2056.34	2056.34	2056.34	1336.28	1336.28	1336.28	1336.28	1336.28	1336.28	1336.28	1336.28	1336.28	1.00	
USD	1.00														1.00

US\$

UK£

FRF

DM

JPY



## Business scene

■ The Central Bank of Jordan has offered new certificates of deposits worth JD 15 million over three months and six months. The highest rate approved by previous issues of deposit certificates was 9.250% for three months and 9.5% for six months terms. The total balance of deposit certificates which were sold to banks reached JD 539.4 million. Deposits in the dinar are re-bought by the Central Bank at an annual interest rate of 10%.

■ The basis of establishing holding companies is to improve investment and increase productivity, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr Ali Abu Al Raghib pointed out. However, some of these firms were unable to perform successfully, whereas others have recorded new investments in the field of tourism and services. The number of holding companies established since 1994 is 13. Their declared capital is JD 173.7 million.

■ Jordanian exports over the first quarter of this year reached JD 289,094,000, covering foodstuff materials, cigarettes, raw materials, phosphate, potash, chemicals, vegetable oils, transport equipment, plastic products, ready-made garments and lubricating oil. Imports in the same period amounted to JD 979,173,000. The European Union and United States were in the top ranks for importing Jordanian commodities.

■ The Central Bank of Jordan stated that the total volume of government revenues last January were JD 145.4 million, of which JD 145.3 million were domestically generated and JD 0.1 million in recovered loans. Current expenditure in the same month was estimated at JD 126.6 million (saving JD 18.8 million). In February, revenues were JD 94 million, JD 84 million of this were domestic revenues and JD 10 million, foreign. Current expenditure in February was JD 115.1 million (this indicates a deficit of JD 23 million). In March, total revenues were JD 150.6 million, of which JD 137.1 million were local revenues and JD 13.5 million in foreign aid and JD 1 million in recovered loans. Expenditure in the same month was JD 128.6 million (saving JD 22 million used in cutting accumulated deficit over the previous years). Local revenues were generated from tax income, customs, sales tax, licences, fees and interest rates profits.

## Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 7 AUGUST 1996

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
DM	1.1021	1.1076
DM	0.4773	0.4797
SFR	0.5860	0.5889
FRF	0.1407	0.1414
YEN (100)	0.6550	0.6583
DEL	0.4250	0.4271
LIT (100)	0.0464	0.0466

## Foreign labor needs to be controlled, says Minister of Labor

AMMAN (Star)—Talking about the need to re-organize the labor market, Dr Abdel Hafez Al Shakhaneh, minister of labor, said that Jordan is open to every Arab and will continue to be so. The government, however, is starting to re-organize the labor market by tightening the lid on foreign labor. The minister says that the purpose is to reduce the level of unemployment among the local population. He stressed that it has no political

connotations. Jordan is one of the biggest states which has large number of immigrant workers in relation to local manpower that reaches 947,000 laborers. There are 300,000 foreign laborers.

Dr Shakhaneh said this figure increased recently, a fact that led to a sharp rise in unemployment to reach 10 percent. (There are approximately 30,000 jobless immigrants). Some employers have exploited those people and

forced them to work in hard circumstances with low wages. Accordingly, and in an attempt to solve these problems, the government has agreed with the Arab countries to implement procedures and regulations to organize the labor market in Jordan in relation to its requirements and vacancies.

To carry out this task, co-operation and co-ordination should be made between the Ministries of Interior, Labor, Municipal Affairs, Information and Agriculture. Dr Al Shakhaneh continued. Crossing points at the borders must stamp the passport of everyone who enters the Kingdom together with his full name, the type of visit (working or tourist), his full address and other data required. Security departments can easily follow the movement of laborers and detect those violators of the labor law by the computer.

Dr Al Shakhaneh stressed the need to re-adjust the regulations of Residence and Foreigners Law no. 234 for 1973. Each one who violates his stay will now pay JD 1 per day and not the JD 10 as was before as a fine for the whole period of over-stay.

The task of the Ministry of Labor is to legalize licenses for Arab laborers and deport those

who violate Labor Law no. 18 for 1996.

Also, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is to activate the Municipal Law no. 29 for 1955 which is related to peddlers and street sellers. Concerned departments at the Amman Greater Municipality also can share in control of the labor market by implementing Health Regulation no. 21 for 1971.

Furthermore, Dr Al Shakhaneh continued. The Ministry of Information has to carry out mass-media campaigns to encourage citizens, establishments, hotels and companies to co-operate with authorities concerned in order to achieve stability and security in the labor market.

Farmers also have to limit licenses for foreign laborers according to their actual needs. These new procedures have already been launched since Saturday, but it will require some time to be effective. The minister says positive results should begin to be seen by two to three months.

Since the beginning of last year and until last July, about 2000 immigrant laborers were deported out of a total of 300,000. "We believe that there



Shakhaneh

are 150,000 who are violating the law," Dr Shakhaneh maintained, and added that there are about 100,000 work permits that were issued between 25 July 1995 to 25 October 1995. However, he continued that the needs of the local market do not exceed 200,000. "We are not satisfied with the increasing rate of unemployment among Arab laborers in Jordan," Dr Al Shakhaneh said.

A new law on fees of work permits is to be issued next week. ■

## A new draft law to guarantee deposits became legal

A NEW draft law to establish a "Corporation to Guarantee Deposits" has been finalized by the concerned departments in the Jordan Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance.

The aim of the corporation is to provide a hedge to local companies, banks and individuals. These clients are asked to deposit JD 25,000 in the corporation as a warranty. The sum would be paid automatically in the event of financial losses incurred by these clients.

The aim of the corporation is to induce greater confidence in the financial and monetary system in this country.

The Central Bank has already instituted a pioneer draft law for real estate mortgage. This step reduces the burden on banks caused by property mortgages and releases more investment liquidity.

The paid-up capital of this public shareholding corporation is JD 5 million, that is supported by \$20 million from the World Bank. ■

## BA makes records profits

BRITISH AIRWAYS announced pre-tax profits of £150 million for the three months to the end of June—up 11.1 percent on the £135 million achieved in the same period a year ago.

Sir Colin Marshall, the Chairman, said: "The outlook for the airline industry in general and for British Airways remains encouraging. This will be another record year for the industry. With our current and proposed alliance, partnership and joint plans to deliver step

change improvements in business efficiency, we are well placed to providing continuing profitable growth for our shareholders and employees."

Profit after tax in the first quarter was £115 million, equivalent to earnings of 11.9 pence a share, up 13.3 percent on the 10.5 pence a year ago.

Group turnover for the three months increased by 10.5 percent, to £2,103 million. Growth in operating profit, up by only £1 million to £195 million, was held back by £23 million

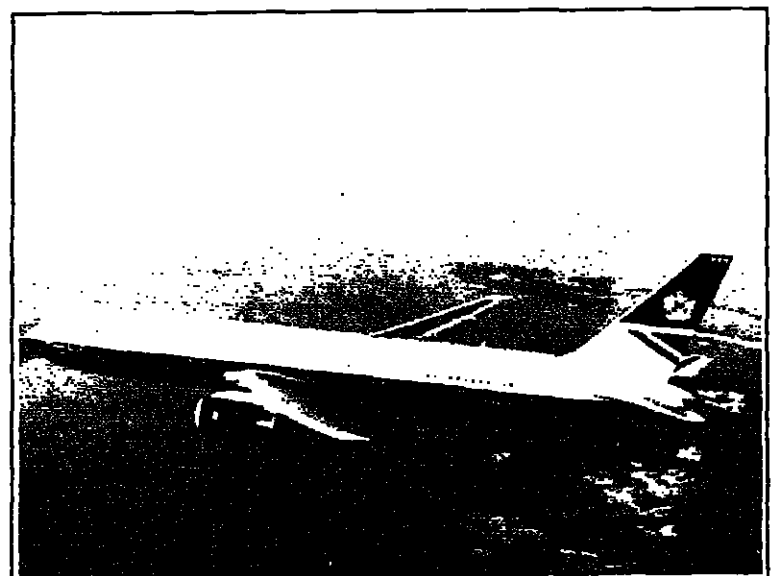
increase in fuel costs. Without this, operating profit would have combined 12 percent, reflecting strong growth in passenger revenue.

A total of 8.35 million passengers were carried, up fractionally on a year ago, but with the average passenger flying further, scheduled revenue passenger kilometers on mainline services rose 3.7 percent. Cargo carrying rose by 9.4 percent, in terms of cargo tonne kilometers.

Net borrowing fell by £209 million, to £3,496 million, giving a net debt to total capital ratio of 56.4 percent, a three point improvement since March 31.

Net interest costs were down by £12 million, a 19 percent fall, mainly as a result of lower interest rates.

Incremental contributions from USAir, Quantas, Deutsche BA, TAT and the network of franchise operators doubled to almost £50 million, reflecting improved traffic feed and reduced losses from TAT in particular. ■



## Jordan Insurance Co., records net profits of JD 2 million

THE JORDAN Insurance Co., recorded net profits estimated at JD 2 million over the fiscal year 1995-1996, the chairman of its board, Mr Khalid Abu Hassan said. The company's total assets rose by 6.2 percent, to reach JD 20.5 million. This is due to an increase in its financial and real estate investments to JD 10.2 million. Its profits in 1994-1995 rose by 7.6 percent. Its insurance coverage in Jordan represents 65 percent, including marine insurance, fire insurance and car accidents. The company's activities outside Jordan were estimated at 35 percent over 1995.

Under-settlement claims fell this year to JD 4.3 million and the share of re-insurers went down to JD 2.7 million. Mr Khalid Abu Hassan added that the total reserves of the company rose by 14.2 percent to reach JD 6.2 million, of which JD 4.3 million for risks reserve. Shares of shareholders are JD 7.9 million. ■



Abu Hassan

## Union company reduces its capital by 1.5 million shares

THE UNION of Developed Industries Co., is to reduce its paid-up capital by 1.5 million shares to four million shares at JD 4 million.

Last year, the company recorded a loss of seven percent, which is about 19 percent of the paid-up capital.

In their annual meeting, the company's board of directors attributed the losses to the commercial recession in the local market, the heated competition from similar operating companies and the high production costs because of high prices of raw materials at the countries of origin, particularly in the price of cardboard.

Total sales of the company last year reached approximately JD 1.85 million, the chairman of the board said that the future plan for the company aims at expanding productivity at total costs of JD 1.6 million to buy modernized printing equipments. Its total assets reached JD 4.3 million. The company was established in 1995 at a capital of JD 5.5 million. ■

## More ships dock at Aqaba than ever

AMMAN (Star)—The number of vessels entering the Aqaba port reached 1012 vessels during the first five months of this year, the Central Bank of Jordan's report for May indicated.

There is a slight increase in the number of vessels compared with last year; the number of vessels during last May was 194 compared with 182 vessels in May 1995. According to the same report, the number of passengers for the first five months of 1996 was 275,686 passengers. ■

## Opportunity for Mideast economic transformation is stressed

By George S. Hishmeh

WASHINGTON—The opportunity for the economic transformation of the Middle East is now, stressed a prominent Israeli economist and the World Bank's senior official supervising the Middle East programs.

Dr Avishai Braverman, president of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and a member of the US-Israel Science and Technology Commission, expressed hope that US and Middle Eastern leaders "will not miss the opening provided by the (Mideast) peace process" because, he added, "private capital is listening but not listening for too long."

Echoing his fellow speaker, Dr Inder Sud, director for the Middle East at the World Bank, said, "the opportunity to make a transformation in the Middle East is now, and one will have to grasp this opportunity now."

He added that "the days of money pouring in from official sources (foreign economic assistance) are over."

The two were speaking at a policy forum held at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy on 1 August. Dr Sud served as the commentator on Dr Braverman's presentation.

The Israeli university president, who formerly was a senior economist with the World Bank, underlined his theme, "a more focused philosophy" on Middle East economic development. He stressed that any country which hopes to undertake economic development must have "the right institutions and the proper skilled labor" or else, he said, the transfer of foreign capital will yield the wrong results.

In an oblique swipe at the recent economic conferences in the region, he said the issue before private investment goes

## Dealing at AFM restored activity through Saudi investor

THIS WEEK witnessed a flurry of trading on the Amman Financial Market (AFM) as share prices on the parallel market went up by 1.7 percent and on the organized market by 0.4 percent. This was due to improvement in banks' stocks of one percent.

Total dealings reached JD 2.47 million, due to an increase in Goldstar sales. Its total sales were JD 1.69 million. The closing of one share price was 750 fils. Last Sunday Mr Dawoud Al Bassam made a big hit in the parallel market when he bought two million shares of the same company last month—this revived trading on the parallel market.

However, total dealings at the AFM last July were 15.1 million shares at JD 18 million. Share prices saw a drop of 3.2 percent. But this shows an increase if compared with total dealings in June (a rise of 46.6 percent).

Stock brokers at the AFM were optimistic because the World Bank is to provide Jordan with one \$1 billion in soft loans over the next two years so that the country can continue with its economic reform program.

But this optimism didn't last for long as the share price index continued to decline. Some observers attributed this to high interest rates, shortage of liquidity, cuts in tariffs on imports and anxiety about the peace process.

During last July, the index of bank share prices fell from 173.21 points, to 170.57 points. Industrial companies' shares were down from 105.010 points to 103.94 points (which is close to its lowest level since the beginning of 1992).

The newly formed companies suffered the most from the decrease in prices; whose shares are traded on the parallel market. Analysts said that their losses are as a result of the numerous number of companies in the market. Their share prices fell between 30 percent to 40 percent.

Daily average dealings in July was 0.7 million shares compared with 0.5 million shares in June.

The industrial sector recorded the highest dealing reaching JD 11.3 million (representing 62.8 percent of total dealing), followed by banks and financial establishments at JD 4.6 million (25.6 percent), then comes the service sector at JD 1.9 million (10.5 percent) and finally the insurance sector at JD 0.2 million (11 percent).

Trading in development bonds during last July was 7000 valued at JD 70,000 compared with 110,8 thousand bonds at JD 1.1 million in June.

The share price closing rate last July went down by 4.6 points or by 3.2 percent. Despite these facts, some observers predict that share prices will see a noticeable rise this month. ■

## Prospects of energy projects in Jordan

MORE THAN 150

Jordanian businessmen representing various sectors of the national economy have attended a symposium on "the present role of energy and mineral resources and its future prospects." The speaker, the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr Hashim Al Dabbas, concentrated on the energy sector which is considered one of the most important sectors that activate the national economy and which is intrinsically linked to economic development and future prosperity.

This symposium comes within the framework of a dialogue launched by the Jordanian Businessmen Association since 1992. It seeks to unify the view towards a development vision of the public and private sectors and to consolidate the process of economic and social development in the Kingdom. ■



Al Dabbas

## MARKET WATCH

3-6 August

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Storage &amp; Trade 5.56</li> <li>Tobacco &amp; Cigarettes 5.01</li> <li>Arab Pharmaceuticals 4.78</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Storage &amp; Trade 5.36</li> <li>Arab Medical Supplies 4.95</li> <li>Arab Medical Supplies 5.26</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>United Insurance 5.00</li> <li>Amman Investment Bank 3.70</li> <li>Arab Pharm. Centre 3.31</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Bank 5.00</li> <li>Middle East &amp; Commerce 4.44</li> <li>Jordan Phosphate 6.69</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Middle East Complex 4.00</li> <li>Amman Investment Bank 3.46</li> <li>National Cable 3.33</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amman Investment Bank 3.57</li> <li>Middle East &amp; Commerce 3.24</li> <li>Rockwell Industries 4.18</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jordan Insurance 5.00</li> <li>TA/BERCO 5.00</li> <li>Dr Al Dawa Pharm 4.92</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TA/BERCO 5.26</li> <li>The Industrial &amp; Commerce 4.55</li> <li>Arab Banking Corporation 4.04</li> </ul>

General Price Pointer	136,500	136,800	137,280	138,580
Trade Volume	686396	2467990	1024532	916586
Stock Volume	472094	2817854	672985	559582

Highest Traded Stocks	Arab Bank 108,330	Middle East Complex 1,692,047	Jordan Investment Bank 465,000	Dr Al Dawa Pharm. 296,410
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All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

USIA



# Palestine Post

## Gulf newspapers condemn Israeli expansion of settlements

■ Gulf newspapers have condemned the Israeli decision to lift the freeze on Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories.

The Saudi daily, *Al Yawm* commented on the issue saying that such a decision will inevitably reverse the whole peace process and renew tension and conflict in the area.

*Ukath*, another Saudi daily was quoted saying that "this is a challenge for all international stances which call on Israel to freeze settlements at this critical stage."

In contrast to what was claimed by the Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu, this decision will not provide Israel with the necessary security it requires. On the contrary, it will lead to more anger and frustration, the daily added.

*Al Fajir*, a United Arab Emirates daily, said that the decision confirms that the radical Israeli government led by Likud, will continue to carry out its aggressive policy without consideration for Arab or international reaction.

*Al Watan*, a Qatari daily wrote that "Settlements were always a great obstacle for the peace process, because it is impossible for peace and security to co-exist with more Jewish settlements." The newspaper added that "Israel is playing with fire," and it criticized the US silence towards this decision.

## Lifting freeze on settlements is dangerous

■ While citizens at Hebron were awaiting redeployment of Israeli troops as the peace accords stipulated, Israeli settlers disclosed their intention to expand the settlement area in Hebron. Political activists at this governorate expressed their anger at this as it goes against the very concept of peace.

They also called for a unified stand to oppose Israeli plans to expand settlements and confiscate more Palestinian lands.

If expanding settlements are put into effect, then terrorism and instability are likely to continue, Palestinians warn.

On another hand, some settlers started expanding their areas in the south of Nablus. They destroyed many olive trees and demolished houses in an attempt to confiscate those lands and make roads and channels through them. The Israeli Minister of Agriculture Mr Raphael Eitan, said that the settlements in Hebron should be expanded to include 4000 Jews instead of the 400 that presently exist.

## Committee for friendship

■ The Palestinian Commissioner in Brazil, Mr Kefah Odeh and the Federal Deputy of the Democratic Brazilian Party, Mr Valdir Colato have agreed to form a parliamentary Palestinian-Brazilian Friendship committee. It includes all party members in the Brazilian parliament.

Mr Odeh briefed the Brazilian official on the difficult situation the Palestinians are living under as a result of hard-line Israeli procedures launched since Likud won the Israeli elections last May. Mr Colato stressed his country's full support for Palestinian rights and expressed his anxiety towards Israeli violations of the peace process.

## Licenses for radio and TV stations

■ The Ministry of Information in the Palestine National Authority called on owners of Radio and TV stations to obtain licenses for transmission. Today, Thursday, is the last day to obtain a license. After that, all stations without licenses will be closed down.

# Israeli cabinet ends freeze on expanding settlements

By John Daniszewski  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM**—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet voted unanimously Friday to ease a four-year freeze on settlements in the West Bank and Gaza—a move almost certain to increase the Jewish population in the occupied territories while complicating Israel's peace talks with the Palestinians.

Although the Cabinet gave a go-ahead for gradual growth in the 144 Jewish settlements built among an overwhelmingly Arab population, a government spokesman said there was no green light for a binge of new settlements or unchecked expansion by existing ones.

"The previous government imposed chains and handcuffs over the natural development of the Jewish settlements," said a statement from Netanyahu, read by his Cabinet secretary. "It is obvious that such a situation is not acceptable to us."

Friday's change in policy got diverse responses across the Mideast spectrum: outrage among Palestinians who accused Israel of breaking past agreements; fears among liberal Israelis that construction will cause a terrorist backlash and delay a final peace; and disappointment among some settlers who want building to resume full speed ahead in the Biblical lands of Israel.

"This is a dangerous decision for the basic interests of Israel, and might bring about an outburst of violence and terrorism," said Labor Party executive Nisim Zivli.

Palestinian politicians accused Israel's new leadership of going back on the spirit of the Oslo peace agreement. "This issue raises deep concern, real danger and threats to the peace process and to the possibility of compromise between Israel and the Palestine," said Palestinian legislator Ziad Abu Zayyad.

To open the door to a negotiated peace, the government of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin froze most settlement construction when it took

power in 1992, agreeing only to complete 10,000 housing units left by its predecessors in Likud.

Haim Ramon, a Labor member of parliament, said his party's goal had been to separate Jewish and Arab populations to avoid conflicts. But he asserted that Likud's goal is to throw thousands of more Israelis into the territories. "Their policy is to significantly increase the number of settlers to create a bi-national reality like that of Bosnia (Herzegovina). ... This friction will ultimately spark a fire that will affect all the peace processes achieved during the last four years."

The government saw differently its politically delicate decision—essentially an attempt to reconcile opposing pressures: On one hand, Netanyahu's right-wing supporters and members of the settler movement that helped vote him into office have been waiting for him to fulfill his campaign promises to support their cause; on the other hand, the new Israeli leader does not want to offend his Arab negotiating partners or to alienate the Clinton administration, which considers the settlements as obstacles to achieving Middle East peace.

During the Labor freeze, every new structure or household was illegal unless specifically approved as an exception by a government committee. Even so, the settler population mushroomed by 40 percent, going from about 100,000 people to 140,000; a third of the increase came from natural population growth and two-thirds from occupation of housing initiated by Likud.

Settler leader Pinchas Wallerstein said he was happy the "discrimination" against settlers has been lifted. But he said he is still waiting for the day when Netanyahu will give an unequivocal push to new Jewish communities. "Morally, I do not feel that this government will be able to agree to a situation where no Jewish settlements are established," he said.

One immediate result of Friday's decision is that an estimated 2,600 apartments kept

vacant under Labor may now be occupied.

That alone should increase the population of Jews among the 2.1 million Arabs in the Occupied Territories to more than 150,000. The settlements are on land conquered by Israel from the Arabs in the 1967 Middle East War, most of which Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority had hoped to get back in a peace settlement leading to an independent Palestinian state.

Both sides acknowledge that the more Jewish settlement there is in these areas, the less likely a sovereign Palestinian state becomes.

Netanyahu won election in May opposing a Palestinian state and instead speaks of granting local autonomy to Palestinians.

The Cabinet decision capped a week of disappointing news for the Palestinians.

Earlier, Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon announced a plan for major new highways in the West Bank.

The Israelis also ordered Palestinian officials to vacate some offices in East Jerusalem, saying government functions were being conducted there; though the Palestinians claim control of the area, the Israelis, at present, will not allow them to conduct official business there, fearing it increases their claim to Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state. Israel has insisted on "undivided control" of the holy city, though the issue is to be part of final Israeli-Palestinian discussions. On Friday, a Palestinian newspaper, the *Jerusalem Times*, complained in an editorial that Netanyahu is using settlements as a way to eat away at the Palestinians' eventual territory, saying, "Israel is not negotiating with the Palestinians: it is imposing its rule on them."



Another round of building settlements is likely to continue

# Israel abolishes restraints on West Bank settlements

By Barton Gellman  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM**—Israel's new Likud-led cabinet voted unanimously last Friday to abolish the previous government's sharp restraints on building in the Jewish settlements of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, formalizing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's declared intent to lift the "chains and bonds" from Jewish expansion in the Occupied Territories.

The government gave no sign of the scale of construction it contemplated, but its vote last Friday reversed the presumption against new building that prevailed since the Labor Party swept the last Likud government from power in 1992.

The decision, which was expected, set the legal foundation for a new phase of struggle to control the West Bank between the 1.3 million Palestinians who live there and 140,000 Jewish settlers whose leaders believe the land is theirs by biblical patrimony.

Netanyahu, who unseated Shimon Peres in May, leads a governing coalition that is ideologically committed to cementing Israel's grip on the territories conquered from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East War. But he ran for office, and won his decisive margin among Israeli swing voters, by promising to make a secure peace with Palestinians.

"Palestinian leaders say he cannot do both, and it has been the prevailing American assessment that they are right."

Ziad Abu Ziyadah, a leading figure on the Palestinian negotiating team, said Friday's vote "raises deep concern and a real threat to the peace process and to the possibility of compromise between Israel and the Palestinians."

Netanyahu is moving carefully to soften that response, deferring confrontation with the Clinton administration and his Arab neighbors. Friday's announcement followed that pattern—beginning with its timing on a Friday, when Arab government offices are closed and Israeli journalists are least attentive because there

are no newspapers published on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.

Government spokesmen, reading from prepared scripts, stressed to reporters that the cabinet vote was a procedural decision and not an operative decision. Chief foreign press spokesman Moshe Fogel said the government merely put an end to "what we view as artificial restrictions and even discriminatory behavior against Jewish settlements."

At least three officials who spoke publicly Friday cited the example of a settlement that might wish "to open a kindergarten."

"The previous government placed chains and bonds upon the natural development of the Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria [West Bank] and Gaza," Netanyahu said, using the West Bank's biblical names. "It obviously placed no such chains upon Arab communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, or upon Jewish communities within the Green Line [Israel's pre-1967 borders]. ... Clearly, this situation is unacceptable to us."

# Edward Said offers enlightening review of Muslim world

continued from page 4

matters that suit her thesis about the militant, hateful quality of the Arab world. I have little quarrel with the general view that the Arab world is in a dreadful state, and have said so repeatedly for the past three decades.

But she barely registers the existence of a determined anti-Arab and anti-Islamic US policy. She plays fast and loose with facts. Take Lebanon: She refers to Bashir Gemayel's assassination in 1982 and gives the impression that he was elected by a popular landslide. She does not even allude to the fact that he was brought to power while the Israeli army was in West Beirut, just before the Sabra and Shatila camp massacres, and that for years, according to Israeli sources like Uri Lubrani, Gemayel was the Mossad's man in Lebanon. That he was a self-proclaimed killer and a thug is also fessed, as is the fact that Lebanon's current power structure is chock-full of people like Elie Hobeika, who was charged directly for the camp massacres. Miller cites instances of Arab anti-Semitism but doesn't even touch on the matter of Israeli leaders like Begin, Shamir, Eitan and, more recently, Ehud Barak (idolized by Amy Wilentz in *The New Yorker*) referring to Palestinians as two-legged beasts, grasshoppers, cockroaches and mosquitoes. These leaders have used planes and tanks to treat Palestinians accordingly. As for the facts of Israel's wars against civilians—the protracted, consistent and systematic campaign against prisoners of war and refugee camp dwellers, the village destructions and bombings of hospitals and schools, the deliberate creation of hundreds of thousands of refugees—all these are buried in reams of prattle. Miller disdains facts; she prefers quoting interminable talk as a way of turning Arabs into deserving victims of Israeli terror and US support of it. She perfectly exemplifies *The New York Times*'s current Middle East coverage, now at its lowest ebb.

In her lame conclusion Miller admits that her scolding may have been a little too harsh. She then puts it all down to her "love" of the region and its people. I cannot honestly think of a thing that she loves, not the conformism of Arab society she talks about, or the ostentatious culinary display she says that the Arabs confuse with hospitality, or the languages she hasn't learned, or the people she makes fun of or the history and culture of a place that to her is one long tale of untellable sound and fury. She cannot enter into the life of the place, listen to its conversations directly, read its novels and plays on her own (as opposed to making friends with their authors), enjoy the energy and refinements of its social life or see its landscapes. But this is the price of being a Times reporter in an age of sullen "expertise" and instant position-taking. You wouldn't know from Miller's book that there is any inter-Arab conflict in interpretations and representations of the Middle East and Islam and that, given her choice of sources, she is deeply partisan: an enemy of Arab nationalism, which she declares dead numerous times in the book; a supporter of US policy; and a committed foe of any Palestinian nationalism that doesn't conform to the bantustans being set up according to the Oslo accords. Miller, in short, is a shallow, opinionated journalist whose gigantic book is too long for what it ends up saying, and far too short on reflection, considered analysis, structure and facts. Poor Muslims and Arabs who may have trusted her: they should have known better than to mistake an insinuated guest for a friend. ■

Edward W. Said's latest book is *Peace and Its Discontents: Essays on Palestine and the Middle East Peace Process* (Vintage). *The Nation*

# Aideed's death likely to increase factional violence

By Stephen Buckley  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

NAIROBI.

Kenya—Thousands of weeping mourners lined the streets of south Mogadishu as the body of Mohamed Farah Aideed, who defied UN peacekeeping forces three years ago and ultimately frustrated efforts to quell Somalia's civil war, was moved from a mosque and buried at his home.

The powerful faction leader, 62, died late last Thursday of battle wounds suffered last week. He died at his home in Mogadishu, the war-battered capital of the East African country that experienced one of Africa's worst famines three years ago.

Mogadishu was later reported to be calm, as leaders of one of the factions that was combating Aideed called for an immediate cease-fire in the country's five-year civil war among clan-based militias. Leaders of other clans throughout Somalia had repeatedly criticized Aideed for shunning negotiations aimed at reestablishing a central government in the country of eight million people.

The civil war and the famine that it exacerbated have killed at least 350,000 Somalis, sent thousands of refugees fleeing to neighboring Kenya and left the country without a central government.

The starvation and combat prompted President George Bush to send American forces to Somalia in December 1992 to help ensure aid delivery and restore order, an operation that was handed over to the United Nations in 1994.

After UN troops left in March 1995, Aideed—who as a Somali general played a key role in overthrowing longtime dictator Mohamed Siad Barre—declared himself president, took over one of Somalia's major towns and remained embroiled in battles for control of Mogadishu.

In recent weeks, fighters aligned with Ali Mahdi Mohamed—leader of one of the two primary factions battling Aideed's forces—engaged Aideed's militias in fighting in southern Mogadishu that killed at least 100 people.

Aideed apparently was wounded in the shoulder and abdomen during one of those battles on July 24. When it became clear that his abdominal injuries were healing slowly, rumors of his imminent death raced through Somalia.

Confirmation of those rumors brought joy to some Somalis. In Nairobi, one group of refugees planned to have a party, and other Somalia-



Aideed

lis in Kenya reportedly celebrated by opening bottles of champagne.

Ali Mahdi had not issued any comment on Aideed's death, but Osman Ato, another principal faction leader, declared an immediate ceasefire, which was apparently being honored.

Aid officials said that the quiet of Mogadishu may not last long if Aideed's militias, angry over his death, attempt to seek revenge by aggressively going after rivals.

A number of Aideed's "technicals"—rucks mounted with automatic weapons and other heavy weaponry—crowded the road leading to Aideed's burial site in an apparent show of force.

"Things are quiet now, but they may not be in the next few days," one aid worker said. "It all depends on how Aideed's militias end up reacting to this."

But factional anger has increased as it became known that Mr Aideed's 31-year-old son is now going to take over of the self-declared government in Somalia that is only recognized by Sudan and Libya.

Such a move is seen as intensifying the civil war in the country. Mr Ato said the election of Hussein Aideed would ignite the already complicated situation in Somalia.

# US action on Iran draws swift reaction

By R. Jeffrey Smith  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

**WASHINGTON**—Defense Secretary William J. Perry said again last Friday he anticipates "there will be an international connection" behind the 25 June bombing of a US military apartment complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and for the first time raised the possibility that the bombing was provoked by Iran.

Perry did not explain the basis for his remark but predicted that the Saudi Arabian government will soon announce the results of a joint US-Saudi probe into the blast. He also reiterated a threat to take "strong action" if investigators find compelling evidence that the incident had international sponsorship.

"The Saudis, I think, are close to completing their investigation," Perry said in an interview with National Public Radio one day after returning from a trip to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Britain. He said he had discussed possible US retaliation for the blast "in general terms" with his British and French defense ministry counterparts at a meeting in London.

When asked if Iran was possibly behind the explosion, Perry said, "Possibly." His remark caught some other US officials by surprise and brought protests from several that it exceeded the available evidence. In a mild rebuke, a White House official speaking on condition of anonymity told the *Associated Press* that it is "premature to speculate

on who may or may not have been responsible."

An intelligence official said US and Saudi analysts are looking closely at whether an Iranian-backed terrorist group, such as Hezbollah, was behind the explosion. But the official said this was one of several hypotheses being explored and that there is still no consensus among the investigators that it

called on the UN to act immediately to prevent such threats.

Meanwhile, the US has turned the screw on companies that deal with Libya and Iran. It now becomes punishable by law any company that deals with those two countries. Mr Clinton said that these countries are the "most dangerous supporters of terrorism in the world."

The bill which was signed last week even imposes sanctions on non-US companies with more than \$40 million annual investments in the two countries. These relate to oil companies in the energy sector.

"The United States' insistence on moves in contradictions with international trade regulations doesn't conform to the realities of the world. Mr Mahmoud Mahdi, an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman said.

Mr Mahdi said the decision is doomed to fail. "The world community is aware of Mr Clinton's intentions to monopolize the world's energy resources and markets and does not believe his false charges of terrorism again Iran."

The US sanctions law also drew a swift negative reaction from the Europeans. Britain, the strongest ally of the US, was scathing. A statement by the Foreign Office stated that "we can not accept US pressure on its allies to impose sanctions under the threat of mandatory penalties on our companies carrying out trade with these countries in the oil and gas sectors."

France and Germany were equally scathing saying that they would not stand idly by and watch their interest affected.

In Brussels, the European Union Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan said that the community "will act to defend its rights and interests if they are jeopardized by this legislation."



Perry





# Mozart is summer's composer of choice

By Stephen Wiger  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

IF IT'S summertime, the music must be Mozart.

Ever since 1966, when New York's Lincoln Center started its Mostly Mozart Festival, the composer's works have become a summer industry, as one orchestra after another has copied the formula.

And for good reason: no other composer's music works as well in these languid months. The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra learned that in 1992 when—because of recording commitments—it programmed almost nothing except Rachmaninov and Copland. What followed were nothing but disastrous box-office receipts and cries of "Never again!"

It's been mostly Mozart ever since. But why Mozart?

Summer is the lazy season, and Mozart is the perfect composer for the indolent.

Before Mozart's time, music was tied to the function, time and audience for which it was written.

Mozart—and his somewhat older contemporary, Haydn—may have been the first to write music that was apt for its time and place, yet that was also able to transcend them and have meaning for later generations.

It is at once easily accessible and also filled with thought-provoking layers that repay serious listening and repeated hearings.

The same Mozart string quartet can serve for intense listening or serve as

background music at a cocktail party. Try using a late Beethoven quartet for the latter purpose and be prepared for your guests to leave early.

Appealing to both the musically sophisticated and the uninitiated was something Mozart strove to do. Of his first three piano concertos for Vienna (K. 413, K. 414 and K. 415), Mozart wrote to his father: "These concertos are a happy medium between what is too easy and too difficult. ... There are passages here and there from which connoisseurs alone can derive satisfaction; but these passages were written in such a way that the less-learned cannot fail to be pleased, though without knowing why."

But much the same thing could be said about much of Haydn's music: the extraordinary appeal exerted by Mozart is complicated by sociological and psychological factors that have very little to do with music.

In the 19th century, Mozart's reputation was as high—not less than 50 plays were written about him—as that of Bach, Haydn and Beethoven.

But the looming shadow he casts over

the repertoire is a phenomenon that was created during the 20th century, particularly its latter half.

In the mid-and late 19th century, Mozart performances were rare. Only three of his operas—"Don Giovanni," "The Marriage of Figaro" and "The Magic Flute"—were performed with any regularity. The repertoire of the Vienna Philharmonic between 1848 and 1910 shows performances of only seven of his symphonies, three serenades, two overtures, five piano concertos and two violin concertos.

His music was considered mannered and dated.

How dramatically the situation had changed by the bicentennial of Mozart's death in 1991.

A set from Philips, for example, contained every work Mozart had written—145 discs for \$1,669.99, in 45 volumes, available separately or packaged together in two large boxes, with plastic handles, like giant boxes of laundry detergent.

By the end of 1992, sales of the performances in that set had reached the

extraordinary figure of 9 million discs. If Mozart could visit a modern record emporium, he would no doubt be pleased by how many more bins his discs occupy than those of "Papa" Haydn and—were he to browse under "S"—how little he would find by Salieri.

But that Salieri is there at all is a consequence of Mozart's popularity—or at least of the industry that has sprung up about him.

In the approximately 15 years between the late 1960s and early '80s, the movie "Elvira Madigan," which used the slow movement of Mozart's Concerto No. 21 for its score, Peter Shaffer's play "Amadeus," and then Milos Forman's film version, made Mozart an even bigger cultural icon than Beethoven.

Appreciating Mozart and his music had become a status symbol of sorts. And the film "Amadeus" made him easy to like—he was just an average guy, who had trouble meeting the rent, was given to cursing (scatological wordplay was a particular favorite) and to chasing girls.

The popularity of Mozart's music may not augur well for other composers. But change may be on the horizon. This summer, Lincoln Center—because audiences at Mostly Mozart had begun to shrink—partially replaced it with a new festival that gave listeners a chance to hear rarely heard works by Berlioz, Beethoven's opera "Fidelio" in its first forgotten first version, "Leonore," and



Carnegie Hall, New York, the place of great concerts

unfamiliar music by 19th-century and 20th-century Russian composers.

And earlier this summer, Pinchas Zukerman, the new music director of the Baltimore Summer Music Festival, spoke about what he perceived as a need to change its programs.

If Mozart were alive, it's likely he'd approve of such changes. He would, no doubt, appreciate the receipts from his performances and recordings. But he never listened to music written more than two centuries before he composed his.

And while he'd probably tell us that he would have appreciated the opportunity to have done so himself, it's also likely that he'd say it was downright dumb—even in the summer—to listen to nothing else.

Great Mozart Recordings  
■ "The Classical Novels": Performances by Guiomar Novas of Mozart's Concertos Nos. 9 and 20, and Sonatas Nos. 5, 11 and 15. (Vox Box Legends 2-CDX 25512).

■ "Mozart Portraits": Performances by Cecilia Bartoli of arias from selected operas and sacred music. (London 443452).

■ "The Marriage of Figaro": sung by Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Anna Moffo, Eberhard Wachter, Giuseppe Taddei, with Carlo Maria Giulini conducting the Philharmonia Orchestra. (EMI CDMB 63266).

■ "Don Giovanni": sung by Suzanne Danco, Lisa della Casa, Cesare Siepi, Antonio Dermota and Fernando Corena, with Joseph Krips conducting the Vienna Philharmonic. (London 3-411626).

■ "The Magic Flute": sung by Tiana Lemnitz, Erna Berger, Irma Belke, Helge Rosvaenge, Heinrich Tessenmer, Gerhard Husch, Wilhelm Strienz, with Thomas

## Records

# Capsule reviews of recent releases

By J.D. Considine  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

IF YOU wanted to be clever about it, you might describe Robert Miles as the techno version of John Tesh (John Teshno?). Like Tesh, Miles specializes in "in-ear," soothing melodies, "played" on mostly piano and supported by lush, dramatic arrangements. But such a comparison only goes so far; after all, Tesh usually records with an orchestra, whereas Miles' "Dreamland" (Arista 18930) is almost entirely synthesized. Those synths are a crucial component in the album's techno undercurrent, blending seamlessly with the electronic percussion in "Fantasy" and providing much of the pulse beneath the swirling "Red Zone." But there's more to "Dreamland" than thumping bass and bubbling club beats. "Children," which boasts a stately, slow-moving melody sketched out against a backdrop of billowing synths, seems to hark back to the epic

grace of Vangelis' "Chariots of Fire," while "Fable" owes as much to progressive rock as it does to techno, what with its Mike Oldfield-ish piano ostinatos and mock-orchestral flourishes. Still, no matter how Miles frames his melodies, what ultimately carries the album is the unexpected synergy between the slow, sumptuous sound of the synths and the Metronomic urgency of the beat.

Combat has been a part of hip-hop culture since the MC battles that took place in New York in the mid-'70s. But since gangsta rap began grabbing attention, it sometimes seems as if rappers would rather brag about their gats than wage war with words and wit. Thank God, then, for A Tribe Called Quest. No sooner does "Beats, Rhymes and Life" (Jive 01241 41587) get under way than Q-Tip, Phife and Ali Shaheed Muhammad wade into the fray with "Phony Rap," a droll dismissal of rap wannabes who "do not write ... who do not excite."

It's an awesome display of verbal agility and rhythmic acuity, but what makes this show of skills most impressive is that the trio keeps cool, calm and collected throughout. But that's typical of what ATCQ does here. Whether they're matching the jazzy swelter of the electric piano in "Jain," or playing off the deep bass and soulful chorus of "Stressed Out," these three exude the kind of quiet confidence that bespeaks true mastery of the music. Maybe that's why they have no interest in the trash-talk typical of so many lesser rappers; as one of the tunes here puts it, it's far better to focus on the music so that you're "keeping it moving."

There's a line in the Sex Pistols' song "EMI" where Johnny Rotten spits that "thought that we were faking/But we were all just money-making." That pretty much sums up the spirit behind both the band's reunion tour and its new album, appropriately titled "Filthy Lucre Live" (Virgin 41926). Recorded at Finsbury Park in London, it finds the original Pistols—Rotten, Steve Jones, Glen Matlock and Paul Cook—ranging through every song from their 1977 debut, "Never Mind the Bollocks," plus "Satellite," "Did You No Wrong" and a cover of the Monkees hit "I'm Not Your Steppin' Stone." Does the band sound as terrifyingly anarchic as it did 20 years ago? Don't be silly. Not only does the band seem sluggish by comparison to today's mile-a-minute thrash punks, Jones, Matlock and Cook play with the kind of workmanlike competence that only serves to remind us that the Pistols' instrumental attack owed as much to Slade as to the Stooges. Rotten, though, remains a true original, and his sneering delivery seems just as gleefully contrary now as it did then. He may be, as he says before "God Save the Queen," "fat (and) 40," but he's as entertaining as he's ever been. And if that isn't worth some of your lucre, what is?

Alison Krauss may get the credit for bringing bluegrass back into the mainstream of country music, but even she sings the praises of the Cox Family. And no wonder. Although this multi-generational quartet has deep roots in traditional music, it also has a sure sense of how to make the most of a wide range of material, and it's that combination that makes "Just When We're Thinking It's Over" (Asylum 61809) the stunner it is. It isn't just that the Coxes take on everything from the classic honky-tonk of Hank Williams' "I Just Don't Like This Kind of Living" to contemporary Nashville fare, such as "Who's Gonna Pay for This Broken Heart"; they seem equally at home with either kind of song. It helps that the family has no problem working electric guitars and drums into the arrangements as needed, but that adaptability has less to do with the Coxes' sense of style than with the group's respect for the tunes. So even a song as seemingly out of character as Del Shannon's "Runaway" seems perfectly appropriate in their hands.

## 'Phat Beach' mixes raunch with a hard-hitting beat

By Kevin Thomas  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

HOLLYWOOD—"Phat Beach," which opened Friday, is a raunchy summer comedy, more familiar than hilarious, and owes much to the vitality and talent of its stars. Jermaine "Huggy" Hopkins and Brian Hooks, and the way they play off each other, it bills itself as the first hip-hop beach movie, perhaps accurately. Along with its stars it depends much upon its sock-it-to-'em soundtrack, a mix of numerous artists new and established.

Hopkins' Benny is a hefty Bakersfield youth who can't get any respect. Once his family is off on a vacation, his pal Durrel (Hooks) bamboozles him out of his fast-food restaurant summer job, gets him to empty his savings account of \$300 and to take off for Malibu in his father's cherished Mercedes convertible.

Fast-talking Durrel, for whom women are good for only one thing, promises the virginal, easily manipulated Benny that scoring is all a matter of attitude, the size of his waistline be damned. But wouldn't you know? Benny is so pole-axed by one look at the curvaceous but coldhearted

Candace (Claudia Kaleem) that he fails to notice that his attempts at poetry have not been lost upon the lovely, intelligent Denise (Jennifer Lucienne).

It takes a while for Benny to wise up to Durrel, see the light and assert himself. In the meantime director Doug Ellin and his co-writers serve up a barrage of sexist images, attitudes and jokes as Durrel ogles one bikini-clad babe after another. They eventually subvert this mind-set about women but not before making sure that the young males in the audience to whom the film is so clearly aimed have first had plenty of opportunity to enjoy themselves.

Add in its strong dose of four-letter words—one in particular—and "Phat Beach" gets pretty crass pretty quickly. That's where Hopkins, a talented actor who makes Benny likable though naive, and Hooks are a big help. Hooks makes Durrel so irrepressible, so unapologetic, in his reckless, single-minded pursuit of nonstop sexual fun and games, regardless of consequences or circumstances, that it's actually hard to dislike him. Hopkins and Hooks are such a natural team, it's likely they'll show up on the screen together again.

## Pop faces

# School's out, but AC/DC still teaching

By Roger Catlin  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

ANGUS YOUNG never really distinguished himself at school.

But he's still wearing his schoolboy's uniform at age 45.

The short-panis costume worn by the manic guitarist from AC/DC is an icon in rock 'n' roll, ranking alongside Bo Diddley's square guitar, ZZ Top's beards and the Elvis Presley jumpsuit.

"The school suit allows me to be an extrovert," Young says over the phone. "Basically, I'm the opposite of what I am on stage. And people who come know you as the schoolboy suit."

Or as AC/DC lead singer Brian Johnson said in an interview late last year when the band's "Back in Black" album was released, "Angus wouldn't go out without that. That's his alter ego. I've seen him walking into a dressing room when it's 100 degrees, stick that suit on and he's ready. As Angus used to say, the suit can walk to the stage itself. All he has to do is get in."

By now there's more than one suit. "There's about 30 that travel with me, all in different colors," Young says. None will last an entire tour. "They usually give them away at the end in competitions or charities. It just depends if you rip a jacket or tear your shorts."

By most accounts, there has been no slowdown in Young's frenzied stage activity as he crunches out "Back in Black," "Highway to Hell" and "You Shook Me."

"I think what AC/DC does best is play live," Young says. "That's when everything comes together. Even after you make a

studio album, when you go out and play live, that's when you learn what being in a band is all about."

The second leg of the US tour comes after dates in Europe and his American markets missed on the first go-round. "We've come back to clean those cities up," Young says.

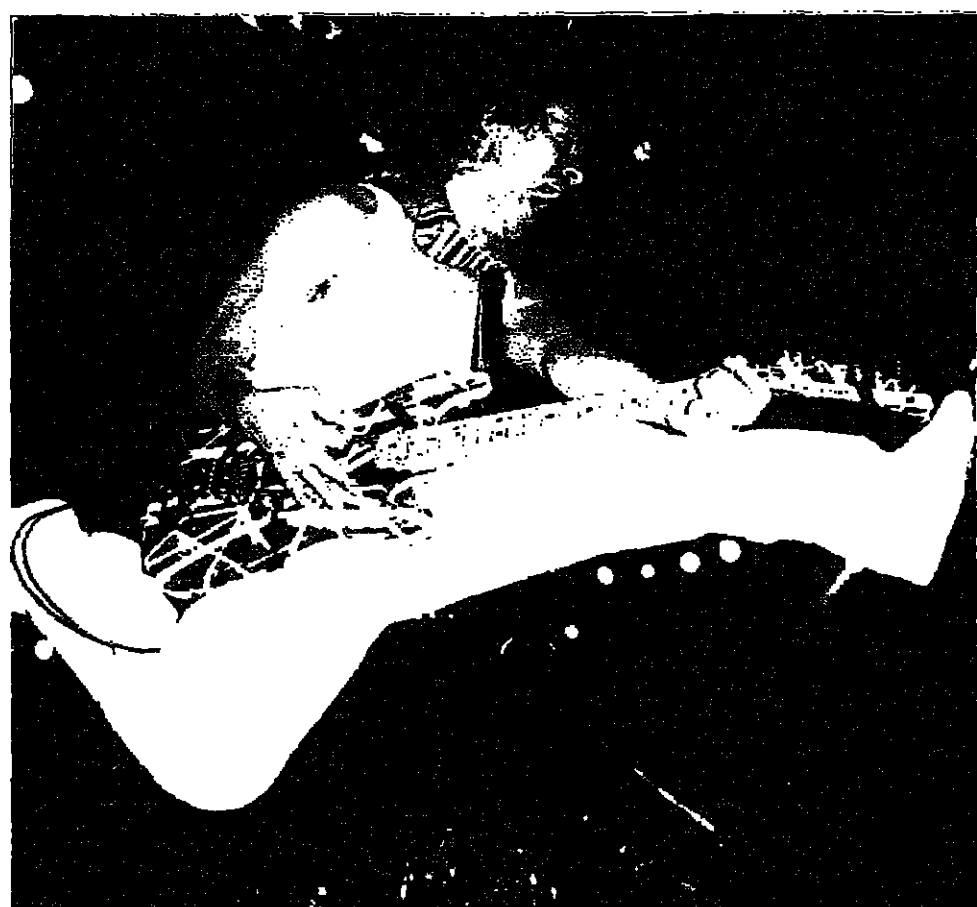
"It's a big, big show," he says. "And there's lots to it besides the band and the music—a few effects: Fifty!"

He won't go into detail, but says the band has to top itself every time it goes out. And past AC/DC tours have featured exploding cannons during "For Those About To Rock, We Salute You" and bells big enough to make Quasimodo deaf to accompany "Hell's Bells."

"I think if you look at it this way, it's value for money," Young says. "And it's like if you just toured with just the band, people would say you're being cheap. So you've got to do it these days, give 'em a show. It's a rock 'n' roll show."

This marks the 20th anniversary of the release of AC/DC's debut in America, "High Voltage." Since then, the band's distinctive power has weathered disco, punk and now the alternative surge that seems to have wiped out the commercial viability of most other heavy metal. (The band's own "Ballbreaker," though, has sold 3 million worldwide since its release last October).

But Young says the supposed ups and downs of metal is "more a media thing. The media, being what it is, is always looking for the next new thing. There are still bands out there playing, no matter



what the new thing is. The Stones go out there and people go see them without records or even airplay."

Rather than change with fickle tastes, Young says, "We're lucky we're the same. Trends come that much quicker now because of the TV thing. They come and go by instantly. What was cool one month, next month is gone."

"Even in the beginning, we never cared what was being

said about fashion trends and stuff. You know, when the Beatles started, there was a record company guy who said electric guitar music was finished. Well, kids are still playing electric guitars today; the fact is it's a bit noisier than before."

And rather than adhering to a label—even heavy metal—Young prefers to let his power chords do his talking.

"I always looked at our-

selves as a band of our own," says Young. "I never thought of us as a punk band, a metal band, or a new wave band. Just as a band band."

If anything, his inspiration came from the American South.

"I grew up mainly on blues music," Young says. "I started listening to blues music when I was 8 years old. That was what got me involved with the guitar. Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, Elmore James. Then for

rock 'n' roll stuff, Chuck Berry and Little Richard."

Angus and his brother Malcolm Young, who were born in Scotland and moved with their family to Australia, started the band in 1974 with lead singer Bon Scott, drummer Phil Rudd and bassist Mark Evans. Evans left in 1976 and was replaced by Cliff Williams, who is still playing bass. Scott died of alcohol poisoning in 1980 shortly after the band's breakthrough US success with "Highway to Hell"; he was replaced by Johnson, who somehow matched the gargling raspy screaming vocals on the tribute that followed, "Back in Black." Rudd left after the "Flick of the Switch" album, but returned for the "Ballbreaker" sessions.

On the new album, with its dry, crunching Rick Rubin production, AC/DC returns to a bluesier sound on a couple of tracks.

"I think there's always been that element in us as a band," Young says of the blues. "Even though we're not playing standard blues band stuff."

It's a long way from "Dust My Broom" to "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap."

And as much fun as they're having now, how long can this rockin' go on?

"I've been asked that question since 1974," Young says with a chuckle. "Who knows? As long as you feel you can write good tunes and people like what you're doing, why not keep going?"

And when will their induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame come? "Hey, I'm still waitin' for my pension," says Young, perhaps the only guy in a schoolboy's suit considering retirement.

Today

a man  
cafe  
culture

INSIDE Jordan Today's  
comprehensive guide including  
Hotels, Restaurants,  
Entertainment, Services & more

JERASH: THE CITY  
THE EVENT

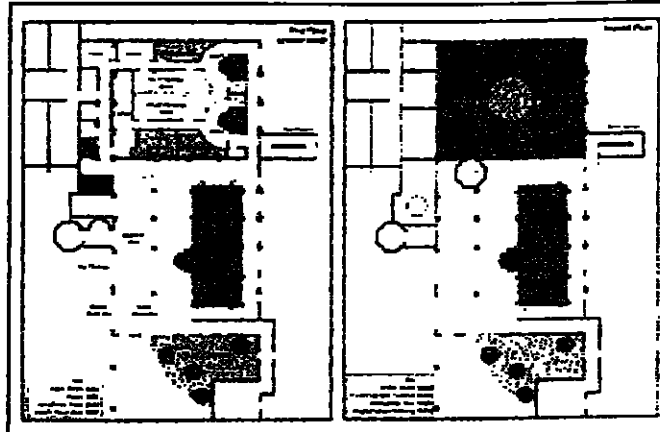
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### Inter.Con's new health spa

The Hotel InterContinental Jordan announced, during a reception last week, the opening of Jordan's newest health spa next year. The guests took part in choosing the spa's name and logo designed by six leading graphic design companies.

The health spa will have an indoor swimming pool, surrounded by mosaic columns and a natural skyline, a fully equipped gymnasium, an acrobatic studio, sauna and steam rooms, jaccuzzis and a hydrotherapy room.



## ZOOM

### Experiencing mass culture

PEOPLE, PEOPLE, everywhere. This was the scene at the three-week 15th Jerash Festival of Art and Culture that ended last Saturday.

It was an amazing experience: people from all over the country came to see the delights of the festival. Men, women, old, young, children and teenagers all came in droves. And the scene was out of a movie.

The festival organizers estimate that about 20,000 people visited the festival each day. For Thursday and Friday, organizers put the figures between 25,000 to 30,000 people.

I don't think that this has happened before. What is interesting is that at times, you couldn't literally set foot in the place.

With over 60 events people had plenty to see. Yet for most Jerash was an outing, to forget oneself in these Roman ruins. Never mind the hurry bury of every day life, this was a place to forget one's troubles for a couple of hours and to keep coming back for the same treatment.

Are we experiencing a new social phenomena in Jordan. Well, judging from this year it could very well be a strong indicator of changing attitudes and perceptions towards culture.

Did I say culture? This might be difficult to gauge. The people were there yes, except most of them were assembled in the main forum and strolling in the colonnade. Very few actually attended the cultural events that were staged in the Artemis, Gracia and Light and Sound Theaters.

Jerash has proved a popular event, but unfortunately it is not an aesthetically enlightening one for the majority of people. They preferred the lighter side of culture, the one where they can sit and enjoy at a relatively cheap side, with the bargain of listening to whoever happens to singing in the adjacent South Theater.

In fact this is what happened in the Majda Al Roumi, Sabah Fakhri and Najwa Karam's concerts. With eight dinars a ticket, people just sat along the side of the main theater listening to the delights of these celebrities.

However, Karam's concerts were memorable for the crowds it attracted. On all three nights, the South Theater was like a human traffic jam where movement was extremely difficult.

But they didn't seem to mind, this was their nights to see that beautiful Lebanese singer.

The concert appeared to be a family outing with husbands and wives bringing in their children to see the sight of that singer.

And this sums up Jerash. It's a popular affair, not for the man in the street, a time for people to let it hang out.

## Karam flavors Jerash Festival

By Star Staff Writer

Over the three concerts she held in the Jerash Festival, the Lebanese singer Najwa Karam was able through a powerful voice to attract a large number of people. Though appearing in Jerash for the first time, Karam captured the admiration of the audience.

She was delighted to participate in the Jerash festival. She sang for the historical city.

Jayeh Yu Jerash Jayeh, a song that revealed Karam's great longing to be part and parcel of the three-week event. The song says that it is a must for any artist to take part in the festival if he or she wants to achieve success. Karam said earlier that her dream to sing in Jerash is now achieved.

During the concerts, Karam sang her famous compositions which can be heard repeated by the young and the old. Among others, she performed *Ana Mafeyeh*, *Ma Besmahlak*, *Al*

*mahlak*, *La Tibki ya wroud Al Dar* and *Hakam Al Qadee*. She was literally amazed at the audience who appeared to have memorized most of her songs.

As from her first appearance on TV, Karam sung for Lebanon and what is called as the music of the mountains, reflecting the expanse of Lebanese culture and tradition. Lebanon is famous for its distinct Arabic music, and Karam presented songs that are uniquely part of that world.

With a powerful voice, she masterminded the South Theater. With a long-enduring tonal chords she was able to keep singing especially that of the *Mawal*, famous pieces that precede Arabic songs.

Karam succeeded in mastering this art and performing it in the Arab countries. Besides, her appearance and interaction with the rhythms of her songs brought her close to the audience.

In the Jerash con-



certs she looked radiant. With those wide black eyes and long dresses she mesmerized the audience.

Just like many singers, in her career that spans eight years, Karam shifted from singing live concerts to songs made on the video clip. The quality of her voice on the clip was to a great extent identical to her performance on stage.

But the lack of challenge and the many technical facilities studios provide might weaken the vocal abilities of any singer. Improving one's voice needs practice.

This could be perceived at times during the concerts last week. Though her voice remained consistent, being helped with amplifiers, one felt there were moments when she appeared to be faltering.

However, this didn't stop the enthusiasm of the audience who literally jammed all of her three concerts.

Needless to say Karam is a professional singer who was taught by the famous composer Mr Zaki Nassif for three years before embarking on her singing career.



Photo by Fouad Jhour

## Building a relationship between man and the city

By Munther Hamdan  
Star Staff Writer

Arab and Islamic culture is highlighted through the photography exhibition of Mr Hani Al Horani currently displayed at Baladna Art Gallery. Entitled "People and Places", the exhibited works are truly representative of the everyday life in Arab and Islamic settings.

The show consists of pictures which celebrate the traditional aspects of the modern Arabic city. Al Horani's creativity lies in his ability to transform ordinary scenes found in everyday life into expressive pictures. They are far from passive even when they portray silent buildings.

It is the dexterity of the artist/photographer which enables him to breathe life into the rock, using his insight and modern techniques of photography. Choosing the right angle and time to shoot made Al Horani a real artist.

His photos are documents which chronicle the history of places and the habits of ordinary persons. With photos of Cairo, once known as the city of Minarets, he takes the viewer into the prosperous eras of past Islamic civilizations. Some shots of mosques date back to the Mamluk period of Islamic history. The artist is trying to reflect the might and greatness of those constructions and how they stand in modern time.

The art presented requires more than using the camera as an instrument. The artist



Old Cairo



Old Jerusalem

should be able to penetrate into the hidden meanings of the scene he wants to shoot and thus magnifying those aspects which he deems most important and conceals those which are irrelevant. This needs a sophisticated photographer who can read the faces of people and create pictures, speaking their desires and feelings. These can be the truest moments of expression.

Al Horani's pictures are either colored or black and white. Most of these which represent people shopping or smoking the *argileh* in the local, traditional markets of Cai-

ro and Damascus, are taken in color. They convey a live and vibrant life with so many people bargaining, walking and/or shouting.

Other black and white pictures of mosques like Al Aqsa in Jerusalem are meant to re-

flect a sad and mysterious vision of places still under occupation.

Horani's photos, as he said, are the production of many visits to Arab and Islamic countries. "Though many of these pictures have been shot under

the influence of certain moments or ironic situations, the exhibition on the whole is seeking to trace the reality of the Arab and eastern city," he added.

Horani stressed that his aim is not to portray the nostalgic past or those attempting to revive it, but he wants to strengthen the relation between the human being and the place he lives in. "There should be an intimate relation between the people and the places they are living in instead of looking upon these places as being only for residence."

Being a political researcher does not lessen the quality and sensitivity of his works. He graduated from the University of Jordan in 1970 majoring in political science. He then took courses in photography at the Lebanese Ministry of Information.

He worked as a journalist and researcher since the beginning of the seventies until 1991 when he became editor of the *Al Urdun Al Jadeed* quarterly. He is also now the head of the Al Urdun Al Jadeed Research Centre.

## US Tennis Open live on Orbit sports

AMMAN (Star)—Orbit-ESPN Sports will air live coverage of both the men's and women's tournament of the US Tennis Open commencing on 26 August.

The US Tennis Open is without doubt one of the great sporting events in the world. Played on hard courts in Flushing Meadow, New York, the tournament is renowned as the most atmospheric.

The fans arrive early in the morning to witness the afternoon games which are usually played under an unforgiving sun. As the New York skyline lights up the evening, the grandstands fill with vocal and vivacious supporters. It is the night games under the floodlights that seem to produce the marathon struggles which are a feature of the Open.

This year promises to be as closely contested as any, with each player knowing that it is their last chance this season to

lift a 'Grand Slam' trophy. Defending champion Pete Sampras will want to put his recent Wimbledon failure behind him and finally win over the local crowd. New York loves a showman and there is none bigger than



Andre Agassi who will be out to reclaim his number one spot. The list of top-class talent is endless: Richard Krajicek will be going for the double after his Wimbledon triumph, while Boris Becker should be fit again and former two-time champion Stefan Edberg will have one final tilt at the title.

The women's event is just as exciting. Defending Champion Steffi Graf will face strong competition from Monica Seles who has blasted her way back to the top of the rankings. Although Graf and Seles are favorites to reach the final, the Spanish partnership of Conchita Martinez and the battling Arantxa Sanchez Vicario will be as competitive as ever.

The challenge starts on Monday, August 26, 1996 at 3:00 p.m. GMT, and ends with the singles' final on Sunday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. GMT. Orbit's 24-hour sports channel will have live daily coverage commencing with the afternoon session at 3:00 p.m. GMT, followed by the evening games at 11:30 p.m. GMT.

No matter who reaches the final, Orbit-ESPN Sports will be there for all the rallies, shots and surprises that make the US Tennis Open a wonderful event for all sports followers.

## THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



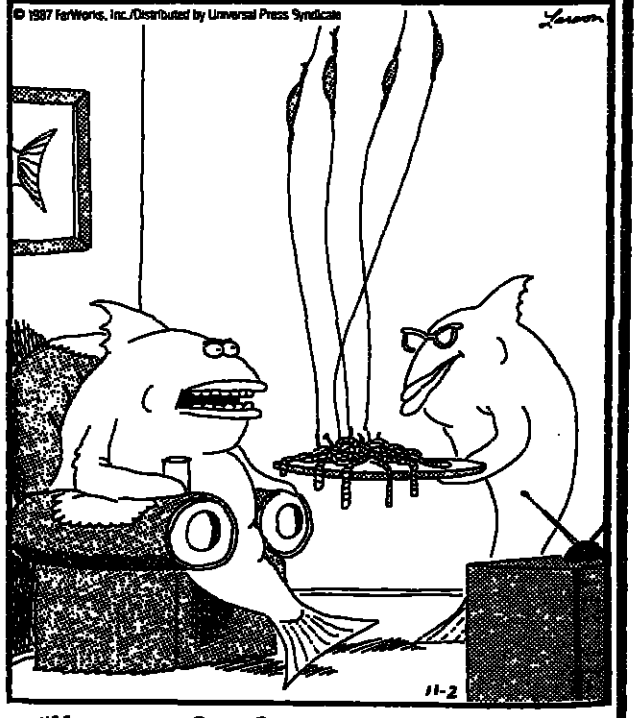
How cow documentaries are made



Thor's hammer, screwdriver and crescent wrench



"Yes! Yes! That's it! ... Just a little higher."



"More worms? ... Saaaaaaay — why are you being so nice to me all of a sudden?"

## The Big Red Boat awards National Express customer

NATIONAL EXPRESS Credit card is the number one credit card in Jordan. Over the past three years, National Express provided Jordanian customers and merchants a much needed payment device that is issued by 10 Jordanian banks.

Attempting to customize the card among different users, National Express offers a random monthly prize to one of its active cardholders. This month the award went to Miss Rula Abdullah Khalifeh who won a cruise to the Caribbean for two. The five-day trip is valid between August '96 till January '97 and was presented by Premier Cruise Line "The Big Red Boat."

A reception was held last Saturday by National Express in the InterContinental Hotel. It was attended by Mr Abd Al Fattah Ghazal, general manager of National Express and Mr Hani Suleiman, director of Discover



the World Marketing, representatives of Premier Cruise Line in Jordan.

## G E N D A

### Exhibitions

An exhibition by Hani Al Horani, entitled *People and Places*, currently running at the Baladna Art Gallery

An exhibition entitled *Science for Health*, at the British Council

A book exhibition by Hassan Abu Ghanimeh, at Royal Cultural Centre, continues until 9 August

An exhibition by Eman Odeh, at the Phoenix art Gallery, continues until 15 August

An exhibition by Hussein Da'seh and Nader Samara, at the Orfali art Gallery, continues until 15 August

### Films

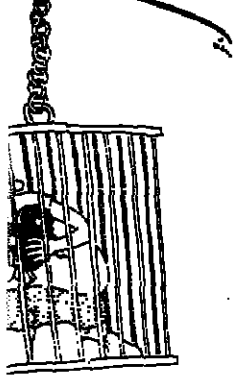
*Empire of the Sun*, at The American Centre, today at 5:00 pm.

### Theater

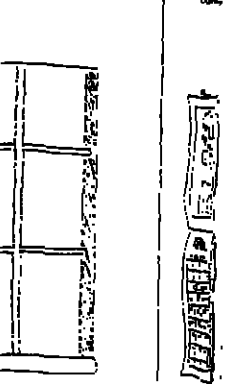
*Arar*, by Khalid Al Tarefi, at The Royal Cultural Centre, showed everyday at 8:30 pm.



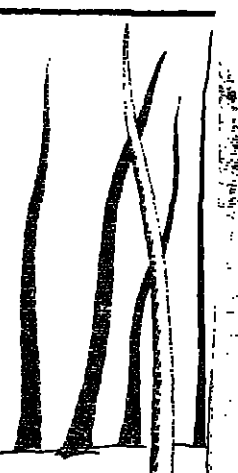
8 AUGUST  
R SIDE  
GARY LARSON



mentaries are made



driver and crescent



Just a little higher



aaaaaaay — why are you all of a sudden?

N D A

An exhibition by the Dallas and Nader at the Orfali art gallery, times and 15 Aug.

Films  
■ From the 1990 American Centre

Theater  
■ And by Khalid at the Royal Cultural, showed every day

AUGUST 1996  
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# THE WORLD PAPER

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## Nigerian leader finds the meek inherit a jail cell

Moderation is often cited as a political virtue in the West, but for leaders in the developing world it has often been the kiss of death—especially when the label is applied by the media and leaders of the US and Europe

By Crocker Snow Jr.  
HE IS, INARGUABLY, the African continent's second most prominent spokesman and statesman behind only Nelson Mandela. And he's in jail.



He has been co-chair with Nelson Mandela of the African Leadership Forum and has been called "the father of Africa" by Mandela's onetime Zulu opponent, KwaZulu leader Chief Buthelezi. Yet he is serving the second year of a trumped up 15 year prison sentence for conspiracy.

al, appointed president and international diplomat, the man who garnered nine of fifteen Security Council votes for Secretary General of the United Nations six years ago. Today he's a jailbird, a 60-year-old international figure fighting green flies in Yola Prison in steamy, southern Nigeria.

For the past 10 years, and realizing that a heart attack could be induced under the situation and cause an end to my life at that stage. Thus as a human being I had no option but to succumb to the whims of the interrogators and made the statements they wanted about you...

ten note smuggled out by a visitor, he describes his solitary situation where attacks of green flies and availability of water to bath with are his primary day-to-day concerns. "But my spirit and thoughts remain high, as my belief, principles and ideals remain valid and unperturbed..."

"Not bad, I've been soldier, president, statesman, chicken farmer... and now jailbird!"

## Moderation is a relative concept in Nicaraguan politics Under Ortega, Sandinistas lose their cutting edge

By Filadelfo Alemán  
FORMER PRESIDENT Daniel Ortega, who ruled Nicaragua for a decade, once more aspires to the presidency of the Republic. His opponents think that he will never regain power "because he has doomed his formerly powerful party, the Sandinista Liberation Front (FSLN), to eternal opposition."

abroad, this was not reflected in his party after its 1990 electoral defeat, when Sandinistas began to wonder "what are we, or what do we want to be in the future?" The war against the Somocista dictatorship of the past decade was over, the East-West Cold War was a thing of the past, the Sandinista revolution has lost the election so, wondered the Sandinista intellectuals, "What now?"

what, early last year, caused the great schism between "orthodox"—headed by Ortega—and "renewal" Sandinistas, headed by author Sergio Ramirez, the former Sandinista vice-president.



In July of last year, with Borge's support, Ortega dominated the Sandinista congress that proclaimed him, for a third time, their candidate for the presidency of the Republic.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, the world's foremost out-of-office head-of-state was Abolhassen Bani-Sadr, the fugitive former president of Iran. His flight from Teheran to Paris was the stuff of headlines around the world.

## Iran's "Little Satan"

► JAIL CELL PAGE 2



## JAIL CELL

Continued from page 1

the writer Ken Saro Wiwa and eight others leaders of the small Ogoni tribe who had been protesting the desecration of their tribal lands by multinational oil companies were executed by hanging. The nation that was seen as the potential progressive model for Africa a decade ago has, in short order, joined the league of the internationally damned.

In a missive to the international community starting with the words, "Life could not be worse than this in Nigeria," the coordinator of the Free Obasanjo Campaign Committee takes the outside world to task for its ineffective posturing. "Those nations—including the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, Japan and China—which have the moral, economic and political clout to influence events in Nigeria continue to place their business interests far above the sufferings of the millions of victims of Abacha's misrule and repression."

Obasanjo's current predicament stands as a sorry symbol of his country's travails. Looking at it on a continental scale, it's the height of irony that, in the years since 1990 when Africa got one of its great men of conscience, Nelson Mandela, out of a South African jail to engineer the peaceful end of apartheid and become a beacon of hope for all oppressed, the continent's other principle and universally recognized international leader has taken his place in prison in the continent's richest country. ☐

CROCKER SNOW JR. IS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *The WorldPaper*.

## Promises kept rather than expectations met

## Cory Aquino put Philippines on the right political track

By Carlson Ong

**N**O MOVIE SCRIPT IN Hollywood, or elsewhere, could have laid it out any better: the widow challenging her murdered husband's long-time political foe to an electoral showdown, nuns sitting on ballot boxes, a disputed vote, a military mutiny, a prelate calling the faithful out to the streets, civilians with flowers and rosaries facing down tanks and marines, the diseased dictator fleeing in disgrace and the lady in yellow taking her oath of office amid her ragtag band.

It was the stuff of legend, it was the finest of fantasies; political revolt made for global TV. Such thing didn't happen in the real world, where power proceeded from the barrel of a gun.

Cory Aquino graced the cover of *Time* magazine and the Philippines was home to the "people power" revolution. The memory of EDSA, that thoroughfare in Manila where the unarmed forces of "good" apparently triumphed over "evil" during those four fateful days in February 1986, lingers.

But leaders, no matter how popular or charismatic, must face the daunting task of meeting the aspirations—or fantasies—of multitudes divided along ideological, ethnic and sundry lines. The societal wounds opened in the waning years of the Marcos regime scarred both civil society and the military. The regime's unceremonious col-

lapse exacerbated tensions among hostile factions. To this day, a widely satisfactory accounting of the spoils of war remains elusive. The two urgent issues that aroused public passion during the three years leading up to Marcos' downfall—the murder of Ninoy Aquino, and recovery of the Marcos' loot—are far from being resolved.

REPORTING FROM MANILA

four years after Cory Aquino's retirement.

Those who expected radical social reform from the Aquino government are largely disappointed. Aquino came to power behind a broad coalition of forces representing a wide spectrum of political persuasions. The radical left, however, chose to boycott the "snap elections" called by Marcos in 1986, and the bulk of Aquino supporters came from the middle class, backstopped by anti-Marcos business people and the Catholic Church.

From the outset, various personalities and political troops wrestled for the soul of the Aquino government under the continuing threat of military mutiny. A few months into the "Cory" administration, troops loyal to Marcos staged a short-lived

putsch at the Manila Hotel where they declared Marcos' erstwhile running mate, Arturo Tolentino, as "acting president." For their antics, the 40 or so soldiers were ordered to do 30 push-ups by then Secretary of Defense, Fidel Ramos. Not long after, troops opened fire at leftist farmers demonstrating outside Malacanang Palace, killing scores,



and prompting several prominent figures to quit the fledgling government.

The next five years would witness

several more power grabs and countless changes in the cabinet as Aquino walked a tightrope. Somewhere along the way she owed her immediate survival to US Phantom jets which thundered across Philippine skies to "dissuade" her military enemies from furthering their misadventure. It was a debt many thought had clipped Aquino's own political wings.

In the end, Aquino settled for less imposing personalities on her team, a less ambitious social agenda, and conservative economics. President Aquino eventually reneged on two major positions upon which she founded her own campaign against Marcos: repudiation of all unlawful or "tainted" foreign debt, and termination of the defense pact with the US.

Her detractors say that coming from a land-owning clan herself, Aquino could not be expected to institute genuine agrarian reform and that her political debts to the Catholic hierarchy had caused her to virtually kill off the population control program during her incumbency. Her own family's decision to turn their Hacienda Luisita into an "agro-industrial" estate, issuing shares instead of land to tenant farmers, was pounced on by left-wing critics.

There is little doubt that Aquino had massive popular support when she first came to office, and that such popularity might have been parlayed into deeper social reform by a leader more daring and less conservative. But given the forces ranged against her

then, she did well to accomplish the main feat that anyone in her place might have aspired to: to last her term.

The fact is Aquino scuttled the Marcos-mandated constitution, disempowered the martial law-era legislature, made mayors and governors across the country accountable, had a new constitution written up and ratified by the majority and reestablished the basis for government in the republic. These took more gumption than many leaders anywhere in the world can manage. And so too did keeping charge of the palace while mutinous tanks rammed the gates. Finally, she abided by her promise to step down from office after her term and to seek neither re-election nor reelection.

Aquino promised to unseat Marcos and to reestablish democratic institutions. This she did.

A decade after the revolt many Filipinos still disagree as to what did, did not, and could have happened before, during and after EDSA. Cory Aquino is back in the news along with Cardinal Sin urging supporters to denounce electoral fraud. It might be a role that many find more befitting her. Cory, the moral crusader, seems likelier than President Aquino, the economic manager. ☐

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## THE WORLD PAPER

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# The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV  
from 10-16 August

## ENGLISH PROGRAMS

## SATURDAY

3:00—Holy Koran  
3:05—Moomin  
3:30—Pumpkin Patch  
3:45—Blue Heelers  
4:30—Big Brother Jake  
5:00—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—The Torkelsons  
8:00—The Album Show  
8:45—Miami Vice  
9:10—Prism (local)  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful  
11:10—Feature Film: *Stormy Weather*, starring: Cybill Shepherd and Robert Beltran

## SUNDAY

3:00—Holy Koran  
3:05—The Mask  
3:30—Bush School  
3:45—Mac and Muley  
4:00—Italian Soccer  
5:00—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—Cinema, Cinema  
8:00—The American Chart Show  
8:45—Special Documentary on the occasion of HM's accession to the throne.  
9:10—Black's Magic  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:25—Frenchie  
11:10—The Boston Pops Orchestra

## MONDAY

3:00—Holy Koran  
3:05—Adventures On The Rainbow Pond  
4:30—The Flintstones  
4:35—The New Three Stooges  
4:40—Kelly  
4:50—The Earth Revealed  
5:00—French Programs

## TUESDAY

3:00—Holy Koran  
3:05—Iris  
3:20—Captain Planet  
3:45—Hot Shots  
4:10—Bob Morrison show  
4:30—AJF  
5:00—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—Blossom  
8:00—Documentary  
8:45—Varieties  
8:50—Encounter  
9:10—Star Trek  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:25—Human Target  
11:15—Hawai 5-0  
11:45—My Two Wives

## WEDNESDAY

3:00—Holy Koran  
3:05—Iris  
3:20—The Flintstones  
3:45—The New Three Stooges  
4:40—Kelly  
4:50—The Earth Revealed  
5:00—French Programs

## THURSDAY

3:00—Holy Koran  
3:05—Double Dragon  
3:30—The New Three Stooges  
3:35—NBA Basketball  
4:35—Take Your Pick  
5:00—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—Carol & Company  
8:00—Taratuta  
9:10—Star Trek  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:25—The Bold & The Beautiful  
11:10—Bugs

Kirk Douglas in *A Lovely Way to Die*, on Friday at 10:25 pm

7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—Evening Shade  
8:00—Super Stars of Action  
8:30—Chancer  
9:10—Hunter  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:25—The Bold & The Beautiful  
11:10—Bugs

—THIS WEEK'S—  
HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

**Weekly Tip:** The moon in Aquarius will help you ponder delicate mechanical and scientific intricacies.

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** Don't ignore an older person's instructions or you'll be in trouble. Get a friend to help you with your work. A sharp comment could cut deep, so watch your mouth.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Make your move early. You'll be stuck in a traffic jam soon. A friend comes to your rescue. You can return the favor.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21):** Count your pennies so you'll know how much you can spend on travel. Caution to an older person's whims so you can go out with your friends.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22):** Confer with your partner and set the week's agenda. Money troubles could plague you unless you've planned ahead.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):** You and your mate can solve a massive problem, if you put your heads together. Financing's available — shop around for the best deal.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Start the week with a breakfast date. Your workload's intense. There won't be time to play.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23):** Don't take a hassle at home too seriously. Conversations could lead to romance, if you're interested. Let friends drag you off on a wonderful adventure.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21):** This is a tough period. Relax with a cuddly, compassionate type. A soak in a hot tub's a good idea.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Write the rent check first, so you don't forget. A fascinating subject soaks up your attention. Be available for domestic consultation more than usual.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** If you need money, ask for it. Be really careful in stores that sell technical gadgets — you may decide you need one of each.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You'll get nagged pretty severely if you haven't done something you promised. An argument with an arrogant know-it-all could lead to a relationship.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** Heed an old friend's advice. You may find yourself in a bureaucratic mess. Take your time, and don't lose your cool.

**If You're Having a Birthday This Week:** This is one of those dues-paying years. Don't gripe, you're building good skills.

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• 18 SUITES FURNISHED LUXURIOUS SUITES  
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• Suitable prices.  
• We give you 24 hrs services  
• Enjoy & Celebrate whatever occasion you have in our Coffee shop at Terras.

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Tha'a Alali Tel. 837175 - 837172

## 10:00—News at Ten

10:25—Feature Film:  
*A Lovely Way to Die*, starring:  
Kirk Douglas & Koscina

PROGRAMMES  
EN FRANÇAIS

## SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés  
5:15—Emission Jeunesse  
La vie devant moi  
5:30—Jeux  
Pyramide  
6:00—Série  
Château Vallon  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Faut pas rêver  
« France »

## DIMANCHE

5:00—Dessins animés  
5:15—Emission Jeunesse  
La vie devant moi  
5:30—Jeux  
Pyramide  
6:00—Magazine  
La marche du siècle  
« Le fond de l'air effraie », 1ère partie  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Cinq sur cinq

## LUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés  
5:15—Emission Jeunesse  
La vie devant moi  
5:30—Jeux  
Pyramide  
6:00—Magazine  
La marche du siècle  
« Le fond de l'air effraie », 2ème partie  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Cinq sur cinq

## MARDI

5:00—Dessins animés

Programs are subject to change by JTV

## Cinema

**"DIABOLIQUE"** (Warner, \$100.71): The original French thriller has been remade a number of times with TV versions and other variations. In the latest edition, Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani play ladies who plot to kill the man (Chazz Palminteri) who has abused them both — but their scheme takes unexpected turns. Kathy Bates also stars as the police detective investigating the homicide. \*\* (R: AS, P, V)

**"OTHELLO"** (Columbia/TriStar, \$100.71): The Shakespearean classic gets another screen workout, with Laurence Fishburne faring nicely with the challenge of portraying the Moor of Venice. The man he deems his closest friend, Iago (Kenneth Branagh), informs Othello that the latter's wife Desdemona (Irene Jacob, of "Red") has been unfaithful ... thereby sowing seeds of discord that bode ill for all of them. \*\*\* (R: AS, P, V)

**"EYE FOR AN EYE"** (Paramount, \$99.12): Veteran director John Schlesinger's drama casts Sally Field as a woman obsessed with exacting revenge on the felon (Kiefer Sutherland) who assaulted and killed her daughter in the family's home. Ed Harris plays Field's husband, who worries that she'll take justice into her own hands; Joe Mantegna also stars as the police detective assigned to the case. \*\*\* (R: AS, P, V)

**"RUMBLE IN THE BRONX"** (New Line, \$102.65): He's been an international superstar for a long time, but action icon Jackie Chan had a hard time cracking the American market ... until this showcase for his abilities was released. Doing all of his own stunts, he plays a Hong Kong policeman who travels to New York City to help a shopkeeper (Anita Mui) in warding off a gang of vicious extortionists. \*\*\* (R: AS, P, V)

**"MR. AND MRS. LOVING"** (Hallmark, \$91.12): Timothy Hutton and "Waiting to Exhale's" Lela Rochon star in this made-for-showtime drama, based on the true story of a couple whose interracial wedding in the Virginia of the 1960s made them criminals, according to that state's laws at the time. They ultimately went to the Supreme Court about that; Ruby Dee also is featured. \*\*\* (Not rated: AS, P, V)

**COMING SOON: "BARB WIRE"** (PolyGram, Aug. 6): Pamela Anderson Lee plays the futuristic heroine in the live-action adaptation of the comic book. (R and unrated versions)

**"BLACK SHEEP"** (Paramount, Aug. 6): After teaming in "Tommy Boy," "Saturday Night Live" alumni Chris Farley and David Spade are back together in this comedy. (PG-13)

**"DOWN PERISCOPE"** (Fox, Aug. 6): Kelsey Grammer stars as the commander of a submarine with a rather offbeat crew; Lauren Holly also appears. (PG-13)

**FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY:** AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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## Bridge

Keep In Touch  
By Tannah Hirsch

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♠ 6 4 3 2

♥ J 6 4

♦ Q 10 4

♣ 9 4 3

WEST

♠ J 8 7

♥ A K Q 9 7 3 2

♦ 9

♣ 8 5

EAST

♠ Void

♥ 8

♦ K J 8 7 5 2

♣ Q J 10 7 6 2

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 9 5

♥ 10 5

♦ A 6 3

♣ A K

The bidding:

West

4♥

Pass

North

Pass

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

4♠

Opening lead: King of ♥

Every once in a while we come across a hand of rare beauty. This hand was analyzed perfectly by the great British writer Terence Reese.

The auction needs little comment. With seven probable playing tricks, West opened in accordance with the Rule of Two and Three at this vulnerability, but could not shut South out of the auction. At four spades there were nine sure tricks, and the only chance to set up a 10th was in diamonds.

West attacked with three high hearts, declarer taking care to ruff the third with the nine of trumps. Trumps were drawn in three rounds, and declarer then obtained an almost complete count of the hand by cashing the ace and king of clubs. When West followed to all those tricks, 12 of the defender's cards were known. South could now make the contract if West's 13th card was either the king, jack or nine of diamonds.

Declarer led a low diamond and, when West produced the nine, declarer ducked in dummy! East could not afford to overtake without setting up a finesse position in diamonds for declarer, so West was left on lead, trapped in an endplay. (If East overtakes and returns a club, declarer ruffs high, enters dummy by leading the five of spades to the six and then leads the queen of diamonds for a finesse.) On the forced heart return, declarer ruffed in dummy and discarded a diamond from hand, and lost only two heart tricks and a diamond.

Note that the end position became possible only because declarer had the foresight to ruff the third heart with the nine!

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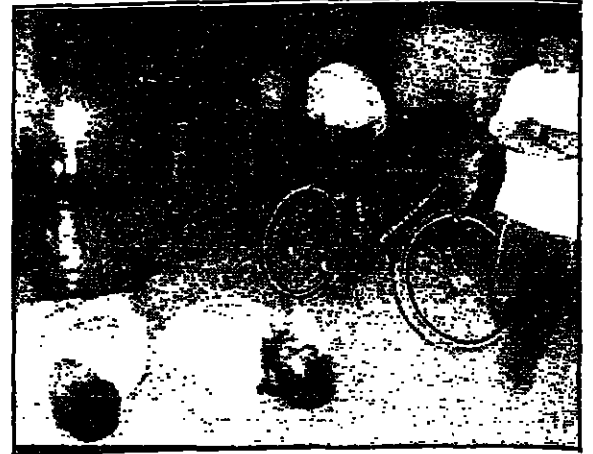


# Le Jourdain

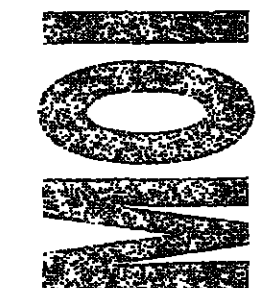
Supplément en français du Star

## Yasser Arafat hausse le ton contre la colonisation

● Accusant mardi le Premier ministre israélien de «saboter le processus de paix» en autorisant la reprise de la colonisation juive dans les territoires occupés, Yasser Arafat s'est montré particulièrement virulent pour dénoncer ce qu'il a qualifié de «violation flagrante de tous nos accords de paix». Vendredi dernier, le conseil israélien des ministres, réuni à Jérusalem, a levé le gel partiel de la colonisation, qui avait été décrété par le gouvernement Yitzhak Rabin sous la pression des États-Unis, en 1992. En supprimant toute une série d'obstacles administratifs pour la construction dans les implantations, Israël s'est donné les moyens de développer la colonisation juive des territoires palestiniens. La colère du président palestinien était aussi alimentée par les récentes propos du Premier ministre israélien concernant le redéploiement d'Hébron. «Si les Palestiniens honorent leurs engagements, nous pourrions négocier avec eux dans les prochaines semaines une série de questions et notamment Hébron» a déclaré lundi M. Netanyahu. Un sujet sur lequel les Palestiniens ne souhaitent plus discuter. «Il est inacceptable de renégocier des points sur lesquels nous sommes tombés d'accord» a déclaré Ahmad Qouria, négociateur palestinien chargé de la question d'Hébron. Selon la presse israélienne, le redéploiement d'Hébron pourrait avoir lieu fin août, soit cinq mois après la date prévue dans les accords Israël-OLP. Le gouvernement israélien insiste sur la nécessité d'accompagner ce redéploiement de mesures propres à garantir la sécurité des 400 colons juifs (notre photo) vivant au centre-ville d'Hébron.



## SELON



**Le fait que** ses assertions soient correctes ou non ou que ses arguments servent ou non la cause arabe semblent finalement peu importer. Du jour au lendemain, le philosophe français Roger Garaudy, rejeté par son pays qui le considère comme un négationniste, est devenu un héros dans le monde arabe après avoir remis en cause certains éléments de l'Holocauste et de l'Histoire du peuple juif dans son livre *Les mythes fondateurs de la politique israélienne*.

En tournée au Proche-Orient, il vient de faire cette semaine une halte en Jordanie où il a donné plusieurs conférences. Sans doute dit-il quelques vérités au milieu de son flot de paroles. Mais il est difficile à croire que des milliers de personnes viennent de toute la Jordanie pour accueillir et applaudir un personnage qui critique la politique américaine ou israélienne. Au lieu d'encourager massivement un prétendu historien qui jette un doute sur l'existence de l'Holocauste, ne serait-il pas plus utile pour nous qu'il tente de convaincre les Français ou les Européens du bien-fondé de la cause arabe.

En fait, il est inutile pour nous, Arabes et musulmans, de prendre la peine d'honorer quelqu'un comme Garaudy simplement parce qu'il vient confirmer la théorie du complot que nous aimons tant et qui nous permet de faire endosser la responsabilité de tous nos problèmes aux impérialistes et aux sionistes.

La théorie selon laquelle les médias français «enjuivent» ne laissent pas parler Garaudy est absurde. Sous ce prétexte, nous acceptons nous d'écouter ses banalités et ses absurdités.

Le fait que les États-Unis soient une superpuissance n'est pas franchement une révélation, comme l'a fait Garaudy à Amman, que le sionisme et l'impérialisme sont la base de tous nos maux ne vas pas nous sauver.

Roger Garaudy n'est pas venu en Jordanie pour nous présenter des idées nouvelles. En fait, il a repris le credo que les Arabes affectionnent tant, consistant à critiquer l'Occident et à le rendre responsable de tout.

De plus, les sympathisants de la cause Garaudy qui reprochent à la France de l'avoir privé de toute liberté d'expression oublient que des millions d'Arabes n'ont aucun droit de parole et à peine le droit de réfléchir à certains sujets. Ils oublient que certains d'entre eux sont eux-mêmes responsables de l'usage incessant du terrorisme.

Les écrivains et les défenseurs des droits de l'Homme ont oublié qu'ils n'ont rien fait contre des faras prononcées à l'encontre de certains intellectuels arabes qui avaient eu le malheur de critiquer les politiques de certains gouvernements et avaient donné leur opinion.

Arrêter de boire du coca-cola, comme le suggère Roger Garaudy lors de ses conférences, n'est sûrement pas la solution à tous nos problèmes. Pour une fois, nous devons réfléchir à la cause réelle de nos souffrances et ne pas se tourner vers un soi-disant défenseur de la cause arabe qui se plaît à répéter des discours que nous aimons entendre depuis toujours.

Sa'eda Kilani

## Jordanie

### M. Kabariti planche encore sur le pain

Depuis maintenant deux mois, le gouvernement jordanien réfléchit à la façon dont il peut annoncer la hausse du prix du pain à la population. Une mesure qui, selon lui, ne devrait pas concerner les Jordaniens qui seront dédommages, contrairement aux étrangers.

Dès que le cabinet du Premier ministre Abdel Karim Kabariti est arrivé au pouvoir, la population a pu noter une série d'augmentations s'appliquant au prix de l'eau, de l'électricité, du téléphone.

Résignés, les citoyens jordaniens ont accepté ces décisions. Il n'en est par contre pas du tout ainsi en ce qui concerne le pain. L'annonce de l'augmentation de cet élément indispensable de l'alimentation a entraîné depuis deux mois une importante polémique dans le pays. Après plusieurs annonces, la première faisant état d'un triplement soudain de cette denrée, le gouvernement envisage aujourd'hui de doubler rapidement le prix du kilo en compensant cette hausse. Chaque citoyen jordanien se verrait alors verser 1,3 dinars par mois. Selon le gouvernement, cette mesure n'a en effet pour but que de frapper les 400.000 étrangers travaillant dans le pays et les touristes, dont on estime le nombre à 1,2 million de personnes.

Un comité ad-hoc de cinq parlementaires a été formé lundi par le parlement jordanien pour examiner les mesures d'accompagnement de cette augmentation. Au cours de la session parlementaire qui a accouché de ce comité, une motion de censure a été rejetée, ce qui a provoqué le départ de l'hémicycle des députés islamiques et de gauche.

Lors de la présentation de ce projet d'augmentation devant les députés, Abdel Karim Kabariti a insisté sur le fait qu'«au lieu d'offrir une aide gouvernementale à tout le monde, maintenant nous la distribuons directement à ceux qui en ont besoin». Cette décision découle de la volonté gouvernementale de réduire le déficit qui menace la Jordanie. Pour lui, le fait de sur-subventionner le blé entraîne beaucoup de gaspillage: le blé est utilisé pour nourrir les animaux et certains revendent du grain illégalement en dehors des frontières où le prix est plus élevé. Avec une consommation actuelle de 660.000 tonnes par an, le gouvernement souhaite ramener ce chiffre à 400.000 tonnes.

En subventionnant une quantité plus réduite de pain, un aliment qui est à un prix dérisoire en comparaison avec les pays voisins, la Jordanie espère ainsi faire des économies et surtout contenir son déficit budgétaire. Une somme de 38 millions de dinars était prévue cette année pour assurer le subventionnement de différents aliments. Or, selon le gouvernement, cette somme atteindrait au rythme actuel 190 millions fin 1996. Un dépassement qui contribuerait à écarter la Jordanie des critères économiques imposés par le Fonds monétaire international.

Au cours de la session parlementaire de dimanche et lundi qui visait à définir le mécanisme d'application de cette augmentation, les députés ont essayé de traiter le sujet sous tous ses angles, refusant d'une manière générale d'écarter le citoyen avec de nouvelles dépenses.

Le député Talal Obeidat a considéré que la guerre au pain était perdue depuis l'arrivée de la première importation de blé. «Nous sommes devenus une société de consommateurs, de consommateurs non producteurs. Alors pourquoi ne pas soutenir la consommation sans accablés des citoyens non fortunés?». Comme beaucoup d'autres députés, il estime que cette mesure punit le peuple pour une faute qu'il n'a pas commise. «Pourquoi plutôt ne pas contrôler les dépenses luxueuses du gouvernement engagées pour des festivals, des conférences, des voyages à répétition et des invitations?»

## De nouvelles hausses en prévision

Il est certain qu'une brusque augmentation pourrait menacer la stabilité sociale du pays. Rameh Saoud, député de Tafilah a rappelé les dégâts des manifest-



Décidée par le gouvernement, l'augmentation du prix du pain est aujourd'hui un sujet à polémique en Jordanie. Photo Fouad Jbour

tations qui ont eu lieu en 1989 suite à une augmentation du prix de l'essence. Le roi Hussein, au cours d'une rencontre avec la presse sur ce sujet, a lui insisté sur le fait que cette mesure revêtait un caractère d'intérêt national et que de tels troubles n'avaient pas lieu de se reproduire.

La proposition qui est revenue le plus souvent au cours de la session parlementaire, et qui semblait la plus raisonnable, est d'attribuer l'aide gouvernementale en fonction du niveau de vie des personnes. L'augmentation doit être graduée afin de laisser les citoyens des couches pauvres ou moyennes s'adapter au changement.

Pour ceux qui contre une telle mesure, «le citoyen qui a faim ne gardera pas des principes nobles. Pourquoi maintenant, après la signature des accords de paix, la hausse du chômage et du déficit, laisser les citoyens payer pour l'échec du gouvernement?»

Dans le même temps, le gouvernement a annoncé l'augmentation du prix des céréales et du soja destinés à nourrir le bétail.

Une décision qui va à l'encontre se répercuter sur le portefeuille des consommateurs.

L'Union des éleveurs privés a aussitôt décidé d'augmenter le prix de lait de 230 fils le litre à 300 fils.

Fayez Al Odwan, vice-président de cette union, estime que les coûts de production sont très élevés et que les paysans ne peuvent pas les supporter seuls.

Pour Abdel Ilah Al Hamawi, directeur de syndicat de langeries, cette suite d'augmentations se justifie. Il considère cette politique comme allant dans le bon sens. Celui de la libéralisation du secteur public. Le roi Hussein a en effet insisté aussi sur le rôle du secteur privé qui doit alléger les responsabilités du secteur public. «Nous allons subir quelques problèmes au début car nous sommes habitués à des prix très bon marché. L'important est de réussir à s'adapter avec la nouvelle situation et à contrôler la consommation de pain.»

Pour lui, «cette décision aura alors peut-être des conséquences inattendues. En Egypte, ils ont commencé à faire la pâte de pain à base de maïs. Ils m'élargissent 20% de maïs avec le blé». Une idée que la Jordanie peut se mettre à étudier.

Oroub el Abed

## Rencontre Hussein/Netanyahu

### Le roi Hussein en médiateur

A l'occasion de sa première visite en Jordanie depuis son élection, Benjamin Netanyahu a souligné lundi l'importance du rôle que la Jordanie peut jouer dans la signature de la paix entre Israël et la Syrie.

Depuis le sommet arabe du Caire en juin dernier et la réconciliation jordanienne après plus de deux années de brouille, le royaume hachémite se retrouve au centre de la médiation israélo-syrienne. Le roi Hussein, qui était à Damas samedi dernier pour étudier avec Hafez-el-Assad les moyens de relancer le processus de paix, avait rencontré secrètement la veille Benjamin Netanyahu. Le Premier ministre israélien s'est en effet discrètement rendu à Londres pour aborder avec le roi Hussein, en convalescence en Angleterre, l'option «Liban d'abord» qui consiste à discuter des conditions d'un retrait israélien du Liban sud avant d'aborder le retrait du plateau syrien du Golan, occupé par Israël depuis 1967.

Benjamin Netanyahu a indiqué lundi après sa rencontre avec le souverain hachémite que le roi lui avait fait part d'un «véritable désir de Damas de se remettre à la recherche de la paix». Il s'est de son côté déclaré prêt à engager «des discussions globales de paix avec la Syrie sur tous les sujets, dans un avenir immédiat». Ajoutant ensuite: «nous voulons avancer vers la paix, nous voulons la paix et non un processus de paix.»

Les négociations israélo-syriennes constituaient en fait le cœur des discussions entre le roi Hussein et Benjamin Netanyahu. Le Premier ministre israélien n'a pas beaucoup évoqué au cours de la conférence de presse donnée à Amman la coopération israélo-jordanienne, si ce n'est dans le domaine de la sécurité. Le roi a lui tenu à aborder la question de Jérusalem, soulignant le caractère indissoluble de cette ville. «Il ne nous est jamais venu à l'idée, depuis 1967, que la ville de Jérusalem, dans un contexte de paix, sera divisée», a-t-il déclaré. De son côté, M. Netanyahu a affirmé que «Jérusalem ne sera pas divisée», relevant «le rôle très particulier de la Jordanie concernant les lieux saints musulmans de Jérusalem, reconnus par Israël dans la déclaration de Washington» du



Pour Benjamin Netanyahu, le roi Hussein peut jouer un important rôle de médiateur entre Israël et la Syrie.

25 juillet 1994.

Avec cette visite, sa troisième à l'étranger depuis son élection fin mai, M. Netanyahu avait bien sûr aussi pour objectif de rappeler les bonnes relations que son pays entretient avec la Jordanie et son roi qu'il a qualifié de «grand champion de la paix». Juste après son élection, le roi Hussein était apparu comme le seul dirigeant arabe à accorder un préjugé favorable au nouveau Premier ministre israélien, déclarant alors qu'il fallait lui donner sa chance et qu'il n'y avait pas de raison d'être sceptique à son égard.

La Jordanie n'a depuis pratiquement pas infléchi cette politique indulgente, contrairement à de nombreux pays arabes qui ont clairement condamné les déclarations de Benjamin Netanyahu martelant ses fameux «trois non et un oui»: non à un Etat palestinien, au partage de Jérusalem, et à la restitution du Golan; oui à la relance de la co-

lisation. Se déclarant «très préoccupé» pour le processus de paix à la suite d'une rencontre inopinée à Tel-Aviv avec Benjamin Netanyahu à la mi-juillet, le premier ministre jordanien Abdel Karim Kabariti s'était ensuite félicité de l'assurance donnée par le chef du gouvernement israélien sur le respect des engagements pris par Israël dans le cadre des accords conclus avec la Jordanie, les Palestiniens et l'Egypte. Cette visite de M. Netanyahu était donc très importante aux yeux des Jordaniens et des Israéliens, s'inscrivant logiquement dans le processus de normalisation. M. Netanyahu a d'ailleurs tenu à ne pas se contenter d'une visite strictement diplomatique, se rendant après sa rencontre avec le roi et le Premier ministre jordanien pour quelques heures à Pétra.

Olivier Bras

## Le bouclage s'assouplit

Benjamin Netanyahu a annoncé lundi à Amman un nouvel et léger assouplissement du bouclage des territoires de Cisjordanie et Gaza en autorisant l'entrée de 5.000 travailleurs palestiniens supplémentaires en Israël.

Il avait déjà annoncé lors de sa visite au Caire en juillet dernier un léger allègement du bouclage en autorisant l'entrée de 10.000 travailleurs palestiniens sur le territoire israélien chaque jour. Le nouvel allègement du bouclage porte à 35.000 le nombre total de Palestiniens autorisés à se rendre quotidiennement en Israël pour travailler.

## Découverte

### Les Suisses redécouvrent Pétra

Désertés par les touristes israéliens, les hôtels de Pétra doivent trouver d'autres créneaux pour remplir leurs chambres. L'un d'eux a eu l'idée originale d'inviter la communauté suisse de Jordanie à l'occasion de la fête nationale suisse le 1er août.

«Moins de 25% de nos chambres sont occupées. Le mois d'août c'est la saison creuse mais nous comptons sur un taux d'occupation d'au moins 40%», explique Robert Fierz, directeur de l'hôtel Mövenpick à Pétra, un cinq étoiles inauguré au début de l'année. «Nous comptons sur les touristes israéliens: cette année, ils sont encore plus nombreux que l'an dernier. Mais la plupart d'entre eux ne passent qu'une seule journée à Pétra et rentrent chez eux le soir.»

Comme tous les hôtels qui sont apparus après la signature du traité de paix israélo-jordanien, l'hôtel Mövenpick doit aujourd'hui réinventer sa stratégie et trouver des moyens originaux pour garder sa clientèle au moins deux nuits, telles que des promenades à cheval sur les hauteurs de Pétra. Des circuits en VTT...

Avec une dernière idée originale pour tenter de faire connaître les charmes de cet établissement, l'invitation lancée en collaboration avec l'Ambassade de Suisse de tous les membres de cette communauté à l'occasion de la fête nationale le 1er août.

Un fût des plus réussies: buffet suisse, musique folklorique... L'espace d'une nuit, la cinquantaine de Suisses présents, soit la quasi-totalité de la communauté helvétique en Jordanie, a goûté au plaisir de se retrouver au pays avec la magie de Pétra en prime.

Les Bâlois de Pétra  
Les liens des Suisses avec Pétra datent du siècle dernier déjà

puisque c'est l'explorateur bâlois Ludwig Burckhardt qui a redécouvert ce site en 1812. Il en connaissait l'existence grâce à la lecture d'écrits anciens. Mais depuis les Croisades au XIIIe siècle, aucun Européen n'était plus entré dans l'ancien royaume nabatéen dont on parlait comme d'une légende.

Grâce à sa parfaite connaissance de la langue arabe et des coutumes bédouines, Ludwig Burckhardt, devenu Cheikh Ibrahim après sa conversion à l'Islam, a pu s'approcher du site et le faire redécouvrir au monde.

Plus d'un siècle après, les Suisses font d'autres décou-

vertes à Pétra. Sous la direction du Pr. Rolf Stucky de l'Université de Bâle, une équipe d'archéologues s'intéresse à l'habitat nabatéen (les temples sculptés dans la montagne étaient des tombeaux) et à la façon dont les Nabatéens vivaient voilà plus de 2000 ans.

Enfin, c'est un architecte suisse, encore un bâlois, Ueli Bollwald, qui a inventé un mélange à base de chaux et de sable destiné à la conservation du Siq, l'étroit canyon qui mène vers le karnak, à l'entrée du site de Pétra. Une mesure qui s'imposait en raison du nombre croissant de touristes.

Claudine Assad

## «Un mausolée s'offre au regard»

Dans son carnet de voyage, le scientifique suisse Ludwig Burckhardt décrit sa progression dans le Siq en compagnie d'un guide et son arrivée sur le karnak.

22 août 1812. «... Les parois rocheuses, des deux côtés du torrent, sont hautes d'environ vingt-cinq mètres. En plusieurs endroits, l'espace qui se sépare est plus étroit et fait qu'au niveau du sol, et il est alors impossible de voir le ciel depuis le fond du défilé. (...) Après avoir cheminé pendant vingt-cinq minutes entre les rochers, nous arrivâmes à un endroit où le passage s'éclaircit et où le lit d'un autre cours d'eau, venant du Sud, rejoint le Siq. Sur le flanc d'un â-pic, faisant directement face au débouché de la vallée principale, un mausolée s'offre au regard. Sa situation et sa beauté ont été calculées pour produire une extraordinaire impression sur le voyageur, qui aura emprunté pendant une demi-heure le passage si sombre, et presque souterrain, que j'ai décrit.

C'est l'un des plus élégants vestiges de l'Antiquité existant en Syrie. Son état de préservation ressemble à celui d'un édifice que l'on viendrait d'achever, et en l'examinant de plus près, j'ai constaté que sa construction a dû exiger un labeur considérable. (...) Les indigènes appellent ce monument le Kasr Farouq - le «château du Farouq» et prétendent qu'il s'agissait de la résidence d'un prince. C'était plutôt, à mon sens, la sépulture d'un prince, et grande doit avoir été l'opulence d'une ville qui pouvait dédier de tels monuments à la mémoire de ses gouvernants». Extrait de «Pétra retrouvée», aux éditions Pygmalion.

## Bilan

### Les fausses notes du festival de Jérash

A l'heure où les organisateurs du festival de Jérash se félicitent de la réussite de sa quinzième édition, certains s'interrogent sur les conséquences qu'a cet événement sur le site historique et sur les façons d'améliorer son organisation.

Le quinzième festival de Jérash s'est achevé samedi par un concert triomphal de la chanteuse libanaise Najwa Karam. De l'avis général, le cru de cette année a été excellent: Sabah Fakhri et Roubhi Rahab ont été très appréciés du public. Majdha Rouni faisant elle-même les foules avec ses chansons commémorant le massacre de Cana.

«Le festival a été un succès du point de vue culturel et littéraire», résume Shamel Janbek, directeur administratif du festival. Il l'a aussi été en terme d'affluence: entre 25 et 30.000 personnes sont venues à Jérash pendant les week-ends.

Cette satisfaction affichée tranche avec l'avis de certaines personnes en coulisses qui s'interrogent sur les répercussions de ce festival sur le site de Jérash. Pour Shamel Janbek, il n'y a aucun problème sérieux du point de vue de la coordination entre le département des Antiquités et la direction du festival. Le fait que le directeur du festival soit aussi le responsable du site permet d'être à la fois sensible aux problèmes du festival et à la préservation du site. «Les installations provisoires telles que les buvettes s'intègrent parfaitement dans le cadre», explique Shamel Janbek. Le nettoyage est ensuite effectué efficacement et le festival ne cause aucun dégât matériel. «Quinze jours après au maximum après la fin du festival, on ne voit plus aucune trace.»

Cette vision des choses n'est pas partagée par tout le monde. Jacques Seigne, directeur de l'Institut français d'archéologie

du Proche-Orient, travaille depuis 14 ans pour la préservation et la restauration du site de Jérash. Pour lui, il existe pas mal d'inconvénients. «Je ne suis pas opposé au festival. Au contraire. L'idée est bonne. Voir des milliers de gens s'amuser sur les gradins du théâtre peut donner une idée de ce qu'était une représentation antique.» Mais pour lui, beaucoup de problèmes d'organisations se posent. Il n'existe aucune concertation réelle entre les archéologues et la direction du festival. «C'est une même personne à la direction des Antiquités qui organise le festival et surveille le site. Il se retrouve à la fois juge et partie.»

Le reproche majeur formulé par Jacques Seigne concerne l'aménagement du site: «Il faut adapter le festival au site et non le site au festival», déclare-t-il. «Il faut savoir bien à l'avance combien de spectateurs auront lieu et quelle sera leur nature. Ce n'est pas la même chose de monter un opéra que de faire venir un guitariste sans accompagnement.» Il faut penser très tôt aux infrastructures nécessaires. Or, tout ceci se fait bien souvent de façon un peu improvisée.

D'autres problèmes se posent ensuite, tels que celui du ramassage des ordures. «Il est inadmissible que ce soit le service des Antiquités et la municipalité de Jérash qui soient obligés d'assumer les frais de nettoyage alors qu'ils ne touchent pas un centime du festival», peste Jacques Seigne.

La pose de nombreux câbles électriques est une opération qui nécessite aussi une collaboration entre archéologues et



Après chaque festival, Jérash tente de retrouver son visage initial.

techniciens pour savoir où et comment les faire passer. Mais là encore, le courant ne passe pas. D'où un résultat coûteux et disgracieux: les boîtiers de commande et les câbles sont placés près des points de passage du public et souvent en dépit du bon sens. «Il suffirait de nous indiquer où l'on veut installer les éclairages et nous sommes prêts à creuser des tranchées pour enfouir les câbles», explique Jacques Seigne. «Malheureusement, depuis 14 ans que je travaille sur ce site, personne n'est jamais venu me demander conseil pour l'installation du festival.»

Certaines structures utilisées pendant le festival ne sont elles pas démontées par la suite. On peut voir à toute époque de l'année des structures métalliques sortant des murs comme de gigantesques araignées qui abritent des cafétérias pendant le festival. «Certaines sont là depuis huit ans», assure Jacques

Seigne. «Il faut que le festival laisse le moins de traces possibles. Il faut aussi penser que pendant la durée du festival, il y a des touristes qui viennent voir les ruines de Jérash. Et ceux-là ne peuvent pas prendre une photo sans qu'un camion ou un câble ne passe par là.»

Si l'affluence du public témoigne du succès de cet événement, elle ne va pas sans poser problème. «Le théâtre sud est conçu pour accueillir entre 2.000 et 2.500 personnes mais il n'est pas rare qu'il en contienne jusqu'à 6.000 à l'occasion des grands concerts. Dans ses conditions, il est presque étonnant que les dégâts soient, tout compte fait, assez minimes et que les accidents restent rares. Il ne reste qu'à espérer que le festival continue à avoir autant de chance dans l'avenir.»

Monia Quaddoumi

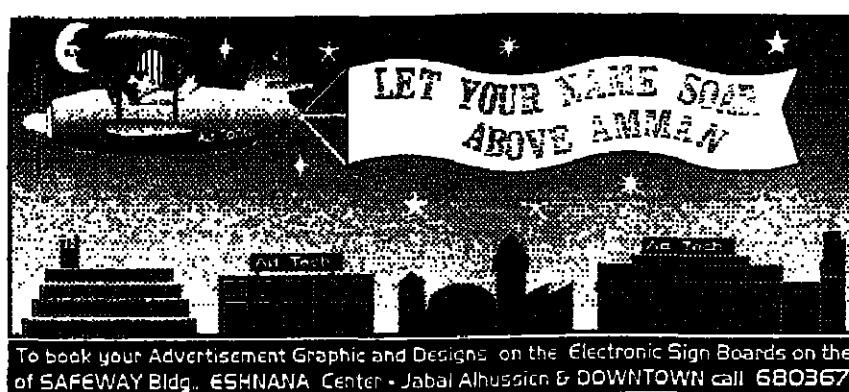


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Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Y.W.M.C.A.	664251		
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Australian	673346/7
Austrian	644635
Bahraini	664148/9
Brazilian	642183
Belgian	675683
Bulgarian	818151
Canadian	666124
Chilean	823360
Cyprus Honorary Cons	677559
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Danish Consulate Gen	603703
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676
French	641273/4
German	689351
Greek	671331/2
Hungarian	815614
Islandic Consulate	698851
Indian	637262
Indonesian	828911
Iranian	639331
Italian	638185
Japanese	672486/7
Kuwait	675135/8
Libyan	693101/3
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	619699/619693
New Zealand Consulate	636720
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Embassy	644932/4
Omani	686155
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatari	682666
Romanian	667738
Russian	641158
Saudi Arabian	814154/6
Slovenian Honorary Cons	861542
Sri Lanka Consulate	645312
South Korean	660745/6
South Africa	811194
Spanish	614166/9
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Taiwan	671530
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
U.A.E.	643347/643341
United Kingdom	823100
United States	820101
Yemen	642381
EEC Delegation	668191
ESCWA	694351/8
ICRC	688645
UNDP/WFP	668171/7
UNRWA	607398
UNICEF	629571
UNESCO	606559

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Ambulance	199
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Traffic Accidents	897467/8
Highway Police	787111

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Akleh Maternity	642441/2
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
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Army, Marka	891611/15
Husseini Medical Centre	813813
Italian-Al Muhajireen	777101/3
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Khaledi Maternity	644281/6
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Queen Alia Hospital	602340/50
Shmeisani Hospital	607431
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
University Hospital	845845

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Radio Jordan	774111/19
Post Office Info.	750981/2/3
Telephone Information	121

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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING &amp; HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

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Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line services. The Workstation page is training into the forum for these topics.  
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## Marketing on the Internet, part one:

## May I have your attention, please!

By Jawad Abbassi  
Special to The Star

THE INTERNET contains abundant resources of all types like news, company profiles, file archives, services and advertisements. This fact is the main reason for the increasing popularity of the Internet: its users not only utilize it as a communications tool, but also as a convenient way for research and entertainment.

Accordingly, the increasing number of Internet users has triggered the interest in advertising on the Internet and, specifically, on its graphic side: the World Wide Web.

Companies of all sorts are establishing their Web sites to relay information to people and pool responses through electronic web forms and email messages. However, the flip side for this new popularity soon became evident: the Internet simply became overwhelming, with a lot of diverse and heterogeneous content that cried for attention.

Attention, therefore, became the scarce resource of the Internet and the challenge was placed to come up with ideas that will attract attention to companies' advertisements and profiles. Ideas were soon to follow. A common approach is to create a web site with useful information and services that will attract people to browse its content and, in the process, view advertisements of different companies.

A very familiar example would be the advertisements' spaces sold by the search services of the Internet which are web sites such as Yahoo, Alta Vista, Lycos and Excite. These all index information on the Internet and provide easy search facilities for the different indexed

make surfing the Internet faster. Also, because a lot of these hits could be duplicated by the same person performing several search requests.

Of course, popular web sites, always lucrative for advertisers, need not be sites that only provide useful services for their visitors, such as a search engine or a news service. For these popular sites could provide absolutely no value, but still pool in an enormous amount of hits per day that would have advertisers fighting over its advertisements space. A prominent example would be a particular web site with pornographic content that gets some 1.4 million hits per day, and whose visitors surely have enabled the option of viewing pictures, which guarantees the viewing of the advertisement!

On the local scene, similar efforts are being performed by local web developers to design popular web sites, that provide useful services so as to eventually become attractive for advertisers. These efforts are targeted at Arab users and people interested in the Arab World on the Internet.

The Arabia On Line web (<http://www.arabia.com>), that is attracting more than 75 000 hits per day, is designed and maintained by Arabian Media Concepts (AMC). This impressive service is completely set-up and maintained in Jordan. Another Arab web site, also aiming at pooling more hits per day, is Arab Net (<http://www.arab.net>) which is represented in Jordan by Cyber Net and is getting some 100 000 hits per day. Other web developers in Jordan like Business Optimization Consultants (B.O.C.) and Access M.E. are also in the same race for more hits.

Buying advertisement space on popular web sites on the Internet is—particularly in America—quickly gaining ground. Yet, as content increases, the Internet will become even more overwhelming and attention will become scarcer.

The marketing gurus, therefore, will surely be busy devising new schemes to attract that much needed attention. That age old polite phrase serving as this article's title may not be that effective any longer!

## The Jordan Computer Society prepares for METS '96: 'The World of Internet' at METS '96

THE DATA communications sector in Jordan is currently witnessing enormous growth, following the introduction of Internet On-Line services as of March this year.

And due to increased awareness among the Jordanian public regarding data communication services, including Bulletin Board Services (BBS) and electronic mail.

As part of the Jordan Computer Society (JCS) commitment to present the latest technological developments in the Jordanian and regional markets, the annual Middle East Technology Show (METS) '96, organized by the JCS, will focus on the theme of Internet and data communications.

Held under the slogan 'The World of Internet', METS '96 will be a meeting point for all the parties involved in the Internet revolution, whether companies or individuals.

The Middle East Technology Show (METS) '96 is the largest computer and information technology exhibition in Jordan, with over 40 participating companies, representing leading international brands available in the Jordanian market. The show is vis-

ited by over 20,000 computer and information technology professionals and enthusiasts.

This year, METS '96 will be even bigger than the year before.

Offering 4752 square meters of exhibition space, it is expected that there will be an increase in the number of products on show and the variety of these products, as the companies involved in data communications services and Internet will participate in the show.

The objective behind METS '96 is to educate the Jordanian and Arab users regarding the importance of the Internet and data communications, working towards attaining the goal of Internet availability in every private and public organization in Jordan: especially in key sectors such as education and industry. The idea is that all users, in different fields, should benefit from the Internet and data communications revolution. At METS '96, there will be live Internet on-line demonstrations, direct from the show hall, displaying the Internet in action to visitors.

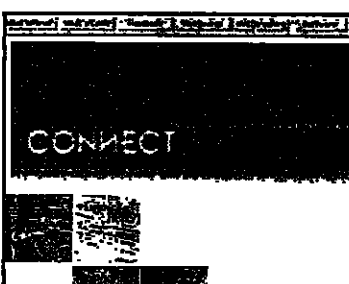
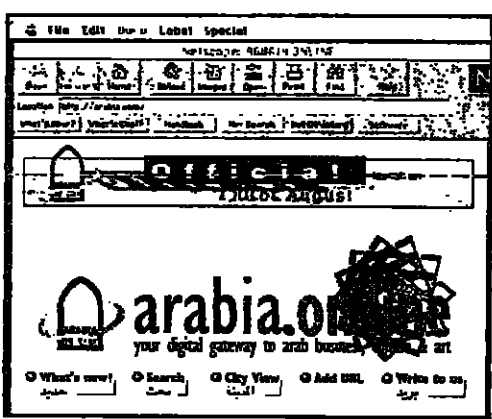
In addition, the Jordan Computer Society (JCS) aims to highlight the role that 'Intranet' networks will play. This is a new concept in networking that utilizes Internet tools and software for communication purposes within organizations and on the local level. The Jordanian market has reached advanced levels of providing comprehensive services in this specialized field.

METS '96 will be accompanied by a Seminar Schedule featuring specialist speakers on a number of topics. Last year, the exhibition featured guest speakers from Middle Eastern and international companies like Microsoft, Middle East, Sun Microsystems, 3 Com, Novell, Fore Systems and others. This year, the seminar schedule promises to also be exciting.

METS '96 will represent a unique promotion opportunity for companies interested in developing their position in the Jordanian computing and information technology market, as the exhibition provides the ideal means of reaching a wide spectrum of information technology customers in Jordan.

For more information on the Middle East Technology Show '96, kindly contact the Jordan Computer Society at:

Telephone number: 683549  
Email: [JCS@NETS.COM.JO](mailto:JCS@NETS.COM.JO)



## News update

## Intel Pentium 200MHz postponed

Intel has introduced its blazing fast processor, the Pentium 200MHz, but it will not be readily available from most PC suppliers for a while, as the company has recently announced that it will be in limited supply.

As the Pentium 166MHz is fast taking over as the entry-level PC, moving up from the Pentium 133MHz, it looks like Intel is prolonging the life of both processors by postponing the 200MHz edition until early next year.

Some leading PC manufacturers, who have special arrangements with Intel, will be introducing 200MHz systems soon.

## JDS gets Nashuatech

Jordan Data Systems (JDS) recently acquired the dealership for Nashuatech in Jordan and has

begun to offer the companies' products that include photocopying equipment and accessories. Jordan Data Systems adds Nashuatech to its existing brands including Compaq, Emerson and others.

## Internet Arabization is here

The introduction of new applications that allow users to manipulate Arabic text on the Internet will herald in a new era for Arab users on the NET.

Companies like Alis Technologies have started to offer solutions to the problems facing Arab Internet surfers.

Among these problems was enabling HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) to support Arabic text, unifying the code pages used by the different operating systems to recognize the Arabic alphabet, in addition to Arabizing Web Browsers.

## Women took the starring role for most of '96 Atlanta Olympic games

By Chris Dufresne  
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

ATLANTA—It would be easy to sit here and chronicle all that went wrong with these Olympic Games.

You know, it wasn't the heat, it was the stupidity.

That is not the intention. Yes, there was some trouble getting to venues, if you consider trouble a bus driver asking a writer from Kazakhstan for directions. Yes, the organizing committee came to be known as A-CLOG.

Yes, Harry Houdini would have had trouble escaping one of these flesh-packed MARTA trains. Yet, from out on the Olympic fields, pools, landing pits, arenas, finish lines and pingpong tables of dreams, there came some terrific results, some of which are just now becoming available on Info '96, the IBM computer system that provided timely monthly updates.

The Games offered 16 days of glory, and one morning of horror. More than Michael Johnson and Carl Lewis and

Karch Kiraly, though, these were the Olympics of the Woman. The US women won team gold medals in gymnastics, soccer, softball, basketball, while the US men, well, they didn't do so hot.

Amanda Beard clutched a Teddy Bear and Kerri Strug clutched her ankle, then a pen to sign with agent Leigh Steinberg. Michelle Smith flexed. Mia Hamm was a marked woman, and Lisa Fernandez grunted.

There is talk the 2000 Olympics in Sydney will be known as the Helen Reddy Games.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

For all the griping, grousing and groping that went on here, some of it actually outside the media center, it would be tough to disagree that these were, in fact, the finest Olympics since Lillehammer.

"I think this is the best," freestyle wrestling bronze medalist Bruce Baumgartner said. "Except for the tragedy in Centennial Park. I think these are going to be one of the great Games of all time. I

know it's getting a lot of static by the media. But, for us, the food was good, the housing, it was small but nice, and the people were fantastic. I just think it's been a great Olympics."

## Greatest Moments

■ Michael Johnson's double in the 400 and 200 meters. He came, he saw, he beat the pants off everybody. Those who were there won't forget Johnson streaking down the Olympic Stadium track in the 200 en route to his world-record time of 19.32. Track buffs say the time was as stunning as Bob Beamon's long jump at the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

Consider: Italy's Pietro Mennea's world record in the 200 had stood for 16 years before Johnson broke it with a time of 19.66 at the Olympic trials.

■ Carl Lewis' ninth gold medal. Does this guy have a flair for the dramatic? He made the US team by one inch at the Olympic trials, qualified for the long jump finals on his last jump, then won the event with a leap of 27-10 3/4. Lewis joined discus thrower Al Oerter as the only Americans to win the same event in four Olympics.

After Lewis' leap into history, Oerter commented: "Carl is making it very difficult for me. Now, I have to come back in 2000. I'll be 64 years old. I'm too old for this."

■ Kerri Strug's giant leap. Not since "Bambi" premiered have so many wept. Strug, a squeaky-voiced also-ran on Bela Karolyi's star-studded Team USA gymnastic squad, sprang to glory with a dramatic last vault despite two torn ligaments in her left ankle. With the US trying to clinch its first team gymnast gold, America needed her. "I could feel it slipping away," Strug said later. "I felt like I had to do it."

OK, America didn't need her. Team USA had clinched



Mohammad Ali, the boxing legend, surrounded by the USA basketball 'Dream Team', upon receiving an honorary Olympic medal to replace the one he won at the 1960 Rome Olympics

the gold before Strug's vault, but you can be sure NBC's John Tesh wasn't working the calculator to figure out the math.

Bottom line was Strug didn't know her vault didn't matter. The question that begged was whether she should have.

■ Naim "Pocket Hercules" Suleymanoglu of Turkey wins third gold in weightlifting. To appreciate his feat, go to the kitchen and try lifting your refrigerator over your head. Suleymanoglu, who is 4 feet 11 and 141 pounds, won an unprecedented third gold with a lift of 413 1/4 pounds. After the competition, NBC's Bob Thompson's Olympic mark but, oh, what a relief.

■ Kurt Angle wins gold for Dave Schultz. No one shed more tears on a victory stand than Angle after he won the 220-pound freestyle wrestling title in a controversial 1-1, judges' decision against Iran's Abbas Jadidi.

Angle was the lone US wrestler representing the Dave Schultz Wrestling Club, formed by Nancy Schultz after her husband was murdered in their suburban Philadelphia driveway last 26 Jan. Angle and Schultz had wrestled at Team Foxcatcher, funded by

multimillionaire John DuPont, who has been charged with Schultz' murder.

■ Michelle Smith wins three golds for Ireland. This was a tough to take for Americans who thought the US deserved to win every swimming medal. Because Smith's times had dropped dramatically in recent months, and her husband once tested positive for steroids, the witch-hunt was on. US swimmer Janet Evans, former gold medalist in the 400 meters, was angered that Smith was allowed to enter the race because she missed the sign-up deadline.

"There have been a lot of accusations," Evans said delicately of Smith's improvement. "Of which I have not made any."

Smith tested clean and somewhere, in a private moment, must have hoisted a pint in America's face.

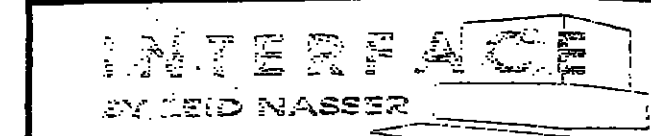
■ Dot Richardson does it again. The 34-year-old shortstop/orthopedic surgeon for the US softball team knows how to steal a spotlight. Before the Olympics, she had hit two home runs in 61 exhibition games. In nine Olympic games, she hit three, including a two-run blast in the gold medal game to beat the Chinese, 3-1. Richardson's home run curled just inside the right-field foul pole, although the Chinese protested vehemently.

The next day, Richardson boarded a noon flight back to Los Angeles to resume her third year of residency at County USC Medical Center.

■ Amy Van Dyken wins four golds. Her history-making victory in the 50-meter freestyle gave hope to all high school misfits who used to hide in locker rooms with towels over their heads. "This victory is for all the nerds," she said.

Van Dyken became the first American woman to win four gold medals at a single Olympics.

■ The US women's soccer team wins gold medal against China. NBC didn't discover this feel-good, ratings-whoopee story until it was almost too late, prompting a US soccer official to scoff: "NBC still



## IPR enforcement in Jordan (6): The law covers the 'Net'

IT'S INTERESTING how much of a central issue intellectual property rights (IPR) is becoming.

This week, I attended a special seminar on the 'Internet & IPR', organized by the Jordan Computer Society. It was given by the Honourable Judge James Ware, who presented very valuable information and definitions regarding how the law views IPR issues, how to pin-point offenders and the challenges that the Internet—digital information in general—poses to IPR legislation.

What is really interesting is that the legal structure, which decides the existence of an offence and its degree, could be rather alarming to people unaware of the daily infringements they may be undertaking. It is really simple. If something is registered, you cannot reproduce it, distribute it or display it. Also, even if something is not registered to its owner, their can be protection without registration.

Infringement is the violation of exclusive ownership rights. There are three types of infringement. There is direct infringement, which is the actual copying of IPR without authorization. Then there is contributory infringement, which is the knowledge of copyright protection, yet aiding the distribution of the copied material; and, finally, there's vicarious infringement, which is not exercising the ability to control the act of infringement.

To make things clearer, let's look at a general example from the world of Internet and data communications which will engulf all matters mentioned above.

Let's assume that a user scanned in a short poem on his PC, and this poem was copyrighted by its author. This user will have reproduced the poem, by taking it into the RAM of his computer, even though he changed its format into computer code. Now, if this person has not received authorization by the author to reproduce the poem, then he has committed an IPR offense.

Supposing this user posts, or uploads, this poem onto the Internet, through a bulletin board service, he will have committed another IPR offense which is distribution because, naturally, several other users will download it and receive copies.

Now, what is the involvement of the bulletin board service in the offense and to what degree will this user be found guilty of infringement?

Well, for starters, the user is guilty of direct infringement, whether he knows or not that the copied material is copyrighted by its owner. By uploading it onto the Internet, there's another party involved which is the service provider. By law, if the Internet service provider has knowledge that the material that went through its service is copyrighted, it should remove it immediately or seek to remove it if possible, while stating its opposition to the act of infringement. If that doesn't happen, the service provider will have committed an offense for contributory infringement.

If the service provider has no control over the information passing through it, it is not held liable. However, if it could control the information, and still didn't do anything about the user's infringement, it will be considered guilty of vicarious infringement. Now, assuming the service provider is in the clear, the user will have to face the law alone. There is another angle however, which is other users who download the material and use it. By law, they should not re-produce it. The moment it enters their computer's memory, they are offenders! In a way, it seems difficult to imagine that the law will pursue these users, unless they commercially utilize the copyrighted material.

But, in the ideal situation, matters should not get to that stage of mass-offense before the law intervenes.

People need to be educated before-hand, through awareness campaigns, so as to see to it that everyone is well aware of the legalities involved in using material on the Internet. It requires cooperation among the Internet service providers (ISPs) and bulletin board services on the one hand, and the media and the authorities on the other. After all, one day soon, copyright infringement of digital information will be a serious offense in Jordan.



The Mayor of Sydney, Australia, Frank Sartor, carrying the Olympic flag of his country, the host of the next summer games in the year 2000, at the Atlanta Olympic closing ceremony Sunday.

doesn't get it."

■ Karch Kiraly, a.k.a. the Spike King, wins third gold. Kiraly, who won two indoor gold medals, teamed with Kent Steffes to win the first gold in beach volleyball. The match of the tournament was a semifinal shootout between Kiraly-Steffes and rivals Singin Smith and Carl Henkel. In what has been called the best beach volleyball game ever played, Kiraly/Steffes won in overtime, 17-15.

■ Amanda Beard. She took home two individual silver medals and a relay gold in swimming and doesn't turn 15 until October.

■ Nigeria beats Brazil in soccer. This was an upset comparable to the US men's Dream Team losing in basketball. Brazil, defending World Cup champions, figured to run the table with its cast of stars. Nigeria rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the 78th minute to win, 4-3, in sudden death. The Nigerians went on to beat Argentina in the finals.

■ Alexander Popov beats Gary Hall Jr. in the 50-meter freestyle. The 100-yard dash of swimming, and just as exciting.

■ Yachting: The Spanish women's 470. Skipper Theresa Zabel and crewman Begona



Nourredine Marcelli of Algeria waving to audience as he won the men's 1500m final at Olympic Stadium, Sunday